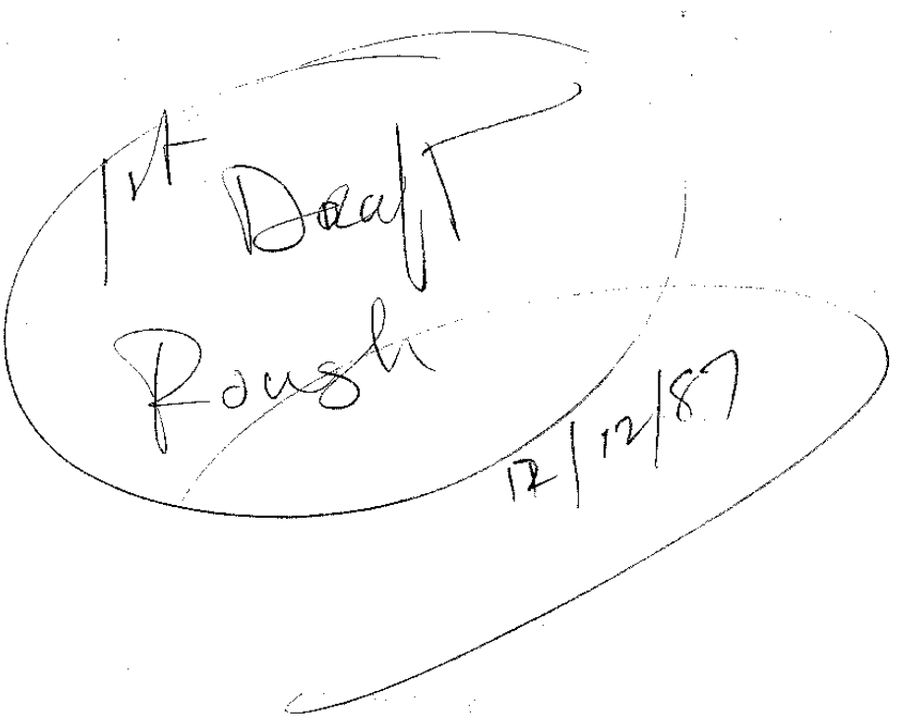

J U D G E D R E D D

Written

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JUDGE DREDD

SOLAR SYSTEM (STOCK)

As if in a dream, we see a configuration of planets. A glow appears behind the dark edge of one of these distant stars. We SEE the EARTH rise up beyond.

THE DESERT - NIGHT

A barren, irradiated plain.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
After the *Apocalypse War*, the United States divided into two enormous cities, Mega City One and Two. In between, the land became known as the Cursed Earth.

On the grim horizon, a CARAVAN appears. In silhouette, MEN on horned beasts of burden lead a wagon train of animal cages. Trapped behind bars, we SEE the outlines of small mutant creatures: Alf-and-E.T.-like animals in terrified captivity.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
There, in the irradiated wasteland, criminals and mutants lived with the few survivors and the other damned of the universe.

NEW ANGLE - AGAINST HORIZON

A group of snarling MUTANT RAIDERS attacks the caravan. The SLAVEDRIVERS fight to the death, finally overcome by the brute force of the MUTIES, who advance hungrily on the animal cages. A bonfire is ignited as spears are brandished.

EXT. MEGA CITY ONE - PANORAMA

MOVING IN on Mega-City One: a dirty megalopolis of vast apartment buildings and autoroutes built largely on top of the old city. The vast height of the apartment BLOCKS make the crowded streets all but invisible. HOVERCRAFT survey the JETCARS on the enormous freeway nexus.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But beneath the domed sanctuary of Mega-City One, eight hundred million souls, greedy beyond belief and bored beyond barbarism, captives of their own technology, survived -- because of the law. And the Judges were the law.

EXT. INNER CITY "OLD DOWNTOWN" - DAY

An enormous office building, the MEGA-CITY ONE EMPLOYMENT TERMINAL is barricaded against a LARGE CROWD milling outside. A large sign states "Closed Until Further Notice." Someone in the angry, agitated crowd shouts:

UNEMPLOYED MAN
I haven't worked in twenty-seven years!

They pull a stop sign out of the ground, start breaking up the tarmac for missiles, and begin launching them at the front of the Terminal. Illegal signs begin to appear above the crowd: GIVE US WORK, BRING BACK MANUAL LABOR, etc.

As the SOUNDS OF THE CROWD GROW RIOTOUS, a sinister whine of JET ENGINES insinuates itself and the crowd turns toward the noise.

A phalanx of JUDGES on JET-BIKES floats slowly but inexorably into the burgeoning riot. With GAS, GUNFIRE, and ELECTRIC NETS, the JUDGES subdue the troublemakers.

INT. BANK (First International Bank of Justice) - DAY

In the vast lobby of the central bank, JUDGES guard the only occupants, ROBO-TELLERS servicing HOUSEHOLD ROBOTS as they pick up their owners' monthly creds.

Suddenly, a burst of machine-gun fire cuts down two of the JUDGES.

PUNK LEADER
Hit the floor, the Cosmic Punks are here!

Robots reach up and turn themselves off as the COSMIC PUNKS pour into the bank. PUNK #1 fires a Law Rocket at the vault door and blows it open.

As the door swings open on tilted hinges, the PUNK GANGSTERS let out a jubilant roar -- which turns to a groan when they SEE JUDGES striding out of the smoking rubble.

ANGLE - JUDGES

Their Lawgiver PISTOLS spitting out the fire of justice.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

A SMALL, HOMELESS BOY stares through the window of a PIZZERIA, searches his empty pockets. When the PIZZA-MAKER turns his back, the boy sneaks inside, grabs a slice and flees into the street. As he comes out the door, a GLOVED HAND grasps his shoulder. The boy looks up into the face of justice.

JUDGE
It's five years in the Cursed Earth for you, kid.

BOY
But it's just one slice, sir...

JUDGE
That's why it's only five years.

EXT. DOME GATE - MEGA-CITY ONE PERIMETER - DAY

The daily banishment ceremony. A herd of PRISONERS scream and beg for mercy as JUDGES direct them through a GATE in the domed wall protecting Mega-City One from radiation. Even the most hardened punk criminal weeps at the prospect of what lies in the Cursed Earth outside.

The PRISONERS file out and WE SEE Punks from the bank robbery, Rioters, and the Small Boy among a cross-section of the lawbreakers.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Out of the apocalypse had come anarchy, and civilization's only hope was the law. In the hands of the Judges, the law was supreme, unmerciful, implacable...

EXT. CHARLES DARWIN BLOCK - DAY

CAMERA moves in on Charles Darwin Block, a vast conical structure housing over a million people.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But in the great city of eight hundred million people, it was hard not to break the law.

INT. SMALL APT. - CHARLES DARWIN BLOCK - DAY

An elderly scientist, DR. FRIBB, is bent over a lab table in his cramped apartment. There are smoking vials of chemicals in front of him. He speaks into a TAPE RECORDER.

FRIBB
I, Northcote Fribb, have finally isolated the enzyme which can reverse the process of evolution.

He clasps a steaming vial, ready to quaff it down.

FRIBB
Now, at last, I will be able to reveal the mystery of man's origins.

Faced with the Moment of Truth, he pales for a moment.

FRIBB
To anyone who finds this record of my experiment after my death... I only hope I have in some way made a contribution to mankind. Goodbye.

He drinks the steaming liquid. Almost immediately, Fribb is seized with violent contortions. HE FALLS O.S. to the floor. CAMERA HOLDS, then PULLS BACK slowly to include the FLOOR of the LAB.

The figure on the floor, Fribb, just waking up, is a Cro-Magnon GORILLA wearing a lab coat.

The de-volved Fribb jumps up, lets out a happy primordial yell and starts wrecking the lab.

ANGLE - VENT

Fumes from the steaming chemical concoction flow into the apartment house VENTS.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

An AVERAGE-LOOKING CITIZEN climbs into his jet-powered COUPE, a candy wrapper flutters out to the curb and the coupe pulls away.

EXT. CITY - JETWAY OVERPASS

TRAFFIC of the future moves in a 100mph dance on the crowded jetway OVERPASS.

INT. COUPE - AVERAGE LOOKING CITIZEN

The Average-Looking Citizen drives along eating his candy bar. He HEARS a SIREN behind him.

EXT OVERPASS - JUDGE DREDD

DREDD is coming up fast on his LAWMASTER JET-BIKE, his stern face visible beneath the imposing helmet of the Judges. His uniform, crested with eagles, arm-and-knee pads, and a badge with his name on it mark him instantly as Mega-City One's top law enforcer. His Lawmaster bike has a Notron 4000cc V8 KT23 engine equipped with bullet-proof tires and rocket pods housing high-explosive rockets. He is the law.

INT. CITIZEN COUPE

Terrified to see a Judge behind him, the Citizen swerves wildly, almost colliding with a passing car, which spins on the highway. He slaps his forehead, looks guilty right away.

CITIZEN
Oh damn! Forgive me, mama, I shouldn't have done it --

EXT. OVERPASS - DREDD

Dredd swerves through traffic in pursuit of the Average-Looking Citizen, guns his bike over the top of a low-slung SPORTSCAR.

DREDD
(over com unit)
Excuse me, Citizen.

He lands hard beside the ALC Coupe, runs alongside it.

DREDD
Pull over or be terminated.

EXT./INT. CITIZEN COUPE

Driver hits the brakes, spins across the median -- underneath the trailer of a TRANSPORT VEHICLE and CRASHES head-on with an AMBULANCE. The truck and the ambulance, largely unharmed, lurch to a halt a few yards away. Judge Dredd slides up in front of the wreckage.

ANGLE - WRECK

The ALC CITIZEN, his face smeared with chocolate and blood, staggers out his car, dazed. In b.g., AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS rush to the rear of the badly-dented vehicle.

CITIZEN
She's only been in the freezer for three months, Judge. I only used her Food Creds every other week, I swear -- she wanted me to have them!

DREDD
What are you talking about, Citizen?

CITIZEN
My mother -- she's been dead three months and I haven't...turned in her body. Isn't that why you were chasing me?

Dredd holds out the crumpled candy wrapper that the Citizen first tossed away.

DREDD
Littering's a serious crime.

CITIZEN
Littering?

DREDD
Stupidity is no excuse for breaking the law.

In b.g., Ambulance attendants perform futuristic CPR on the gasping PATIENT, who dies. Dredd glances over his shoulder.

DREDD
(pitches candy wrapper)
This is a year in an Iso-Cube.
(points to ambulance)
That's The Cursed Earth for life.

Citizen falls to his knees, weeping.

CITIZEN
I've always been a good citizen, Judge Dredd --

DREDD
No one is above the law.

Dredd nods, then responds to a call on his COM UNIT.

DREDD
This is Dredd.

COM UNIT
Trouble in the Charles Darwin block.

DREDD
Trouble?

COM UNIT
Report is it's being attacked by monkeys.

INT. APARTMENT - CHARLES DARWIN BLOCK - DAY

CHEMICAL FUMES are still wafting through the vents -- into the APARTMENT of a MAN sitting at his breakfast table eating a bowl of plasti-flakes. In the next room, his WIFE is watching TV. The man's nose twitches.

MAN
Hmm...somebody's cooking spaghetti.

He falls abruptly face down in his cereal. There is a SCREAM from his wife in the next room.

ANGLE

The man's wife isn't even looking in the kitchen: she's reacting to her arms, which have suddenly sprouted hair. When she looks up to her husband for help, CAMERA whip-pans to a large chimpanzee rubbing cereal all over his face.

ANOTHER APARTMENT - DAY

In this apartment TWO ORANGUTANGS, formerly in the construction business, knock out their walls with a couple of sledgehammers. A house-keeping ROBOT is going crazy.

ROBOT 2
Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, you must not knock holes in your wall!

Heedless, they bring the wall down, revealing TWO LARGE LIZARDS in the next apartment waiting to say hello.

EXT. CHARLES DARWIN BLOCK - DAY

Panicked CROWDS are being held back by Judges cordoning off the area.

The massive apartment house complex towers above them, impersonal except for signs of scattered fires in upper-story windows.

Dredd pulls up and takes charge, as other Judges meet him.

JUDGE GIANT
Dredd, Blockscan shows a possible perp -- a Professor Fribb on the two-hundred eight floor -- illegal research. He was working on an enzyme that would turn evolution backward!

JUDGE BREWER
it's like a primordial forest in there.

JUDGE GIANT
As far as we can tell, the whole block is affected.

DREDD
Has anyone gone in?

A THIRD JUDGE
We tried sending in Judges -- there they are.

He points to a side area where TWO CHIMPANZEES in Judges uniforms are frolicking, under guard.

DREDD
Drokk.

Someone SHOUTS a warning as a DINING ROOM TABLE and a TV VIDSET come crashing down from above. Looking up, the Judges SEE an ORANGUTANG in a house-dress clapping her hands in delight on the 24th floor.

JUDGE GIANT
Looks like the contamination is spreading --

DREDD
It must be airborne. Respirators!

They lower the respiration shields on their helmets and follow Dredd into the building.

INT. HALLWAY - APARTMENT BLOCK ENTRY - DAY

Dredd and the others fan through the enormously long entrance hallway.

THEIR POV

The apartment entry is overgrown. In the distance, animal movement can be seen as the hallway opens into a central mall area. Dredd turns to his men as they enter FRAME.

DREDD
(to Giant & Brewer)
You take the West Sector -- you...you take the mall. I'll try and make it to the apartment.

JUDGE GIANT
What do we do after we've pacified them?

DREDD
Call the zoo.

They turn a corner to the ELEVATOR HALLWAY. THREE PREHISTORIC APES with murder in their eyes ROLL OIL DRUMS at them -- the Judges scatter like bowling pins as they dodge the barrels. The APES charge. Dredd and the other Judges shoot to kill.

DREDD
Poor devils.

Dredd and the other Judges split up.

DREDD (CONT.)
Call in Reserve Judges -- tell them to meet me on the 208th floor.

Dredd walks through smoke, steps over the dead primates into the ELEVATOR.

INT. HALLWAY, 208TH FLOOR - DAY

ELEVATOR DOOR OPENS. Dredd walks out, SEES SNAKES, REPTILES and WEIRD QUADRIPEDS slithering on the floor.

DREDD
(into comset)
They're regressing to the lower stages.

Dredd SEES a vicious lizard-like HUMANOID advancing on him slowly, licking its chops.

JUDGE BREWER (V.O)
(from comset)
Dredd, the Science Academy called -- they want us to save as many as possible. This nut could have created the Missing Link.

The LIZARD MAN charges Dredd.

DREDD
Some things are better off missing.

He blasts his ASSAILANT halfway back down the hall.

DREDD
If they break the law they're perps. I don't care if they are primeval. Blast 'em back to the Stone Age.

The DOOR of a nearby apartment squeaks open. Dredd kicks in the door, gun drawn.

DREDD'S POV - APARTMENT

An OLD LADY MONKEY in a dress has stuck her head into a smoking VIDSET. She's hopping up and down trying to extricate it.

HALLWAY - AS BEFORE

Dredd turns his attention back into the hall, SEES --

POV - END OF CORRIDOR

The head and shoulders of a TYRANNOSAURUS appear at the end of the hall. The beast lets out a fierce ROAR.

CLOSE ON DREDD

Dredd gives the tyrannosaurus an ironic stare.

DREDD
This has got to stop right now.

He detaches a GRENADE from his belt and lobs it down the hall at the dinosaur. Ducks for cover in the open apartment as the EXPLOSION rocks the corridor.

As Dredd comes back into the hall, the ELEVATOR opens and BACKUP JUDGES arrive.

INT. PROFESSOR FRIBB'S APARTMENT - DAY

Dredd walks in, followed by the others. FLASKS AND VIALS on the lab table are still bubbling over. A young JUDGE comes forward with a Porta-Vac and starts sucking everything up. Another JUDGE starts clearing the atmosphere with a sub-atomic Airwick.

Dredd advances toward something O.S., kneels to examine --

PROFESSOR FRIBB - POV

The doctor who started it all has become a heaping mass of protoplasmic jelly oozing on the floor. We can perhaps make out two tiny, terrified eyes peering out from the ooze.

DREDD
Professor Fribb. Hope he found what he was looking for.

RESERVE JUDGE
What do we do with him?

DREDD
(a beat)
Blot him up and book him.

Dredd stands up, takes Fribb's notebook and tape recorder from the table, and walks away.

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

A complex of futuristic buildings held together by the shape of a great eagle, its outstretched wings looming protectively over the city. The massive entranceway lies between large plasteel talons that clutch the steps.

Dredd parks outside in a space reserved for senior Judges and heads up the steps where he meets JUDGE MORALES, a Hispanic Judge with a big bandito moustache. With him is JUDGE ANDERSON, a tall, leggy blonde with startlingly intelligent blue eyes and striking features. Unlike the other Judges whose names are prominently displayed on their badges, Anderson's badge reads "PSI" for Psi-Judge.

JUDGE MORALES
Sorry I missed the action, Dredd. I never shot a monkey.

Dredd gives him a look.

JUDGE MORALES (CONT.)
The Council of Five wants to see you.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Something about failure to preserve the history of evolution...

In b.g., a parade of JUDGES followed by TRANSPORTS heaped with the bodies of the former residents of Charles Darwin Block heading for the Hall of Science entrance.

JUDGE MORALES
Yeah, they want to find out how we went from the amoeba to this.

DREDD
Very funny, Morales.

Dredd watches as Judge Morales walks away.

JUDGE ANDERSON
It wouldn't hurt you to be polite, you're too hard on him...he thinks the world of you.

DREDD
Judges shouldn't be allowed to have facial hair. It undermines discipline.

JUDGE ANDERSON
So does inability to control your personal feelings.

DREDD
You're not authorized to use your psy-powers on Senior Judges.

JUDGE ANDERSON
It doesn't take psy-powers to read your face, Dredd.

They're walking up the steps to the entrance portals.

DREDD
Must you be so flip, Anderson?

JUDGE ANDERSON
Sorry, Dredd, you wouldn't want to have my head this week -- it's been full of strange dark shadows of doom...

DREDD
You Psi-Judges worry too much about the future and not enough about the law.

INT. COLLONADE, HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

Dredd and Anderson walk past a GUIDED TOUR of SCHOOL CHILDREN clustered around a TRANSPARENT PLASTIC CUBE which contains the fully-dressed, cryogenically-preserved BODY of PRESIDENT Robert Booth. A plaque on the crypt reads, "For Crimes Against Humanity."

TOUR GUIDE
This is the man who initiated the Nuclear Wars in 2070. The Judges have preserved him here until science discovers the cure for death -- at which point he'll be revived and punished.

The children stare at the President and go "wow." Then ONE KID spots Judge Dredd and they all turn, even more impressed. Anderson smiles but Dredd just keeps walking. They pause at the entrance to the COUNCIL CHAMBER. Dredd hands her Dr. Fribb's documents and tape recorder.

DREDD
Take these to the Hall of Science.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Good luck with Judge Fargo.

DREDD
Judges don't need luck.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Everybody needs luck, especially those who don't believe in it. See you, Dredd.

She fixes him with a stare of cool amusement that makes Dredd shuffle his armored boots and squirm inside his plasteel epaulets.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Dredd walks in, comes to attention in front of the curved rostrom behind which sits the COUNCIL OF FIVE, CHIEF JUDGE FARGO in the center, along with the CHIEF JUDGES of Mega-City One's four sectors. Behind them is a GIANT SERIES OF VID-SCREENS and interlocking electronic displays.

JUDGE FARGO
Always a pleasure to see you, Dredd -- one of our more <u>active</u> judges.

Dredd is greeted with murmurs and nods of appreciation from the others. Their brittle laughter betrays their age if not their wisdom.

CHIEF JUDGE 1
Good work at the Charles Darwin Block. If you hadn't contained it we'd have had to nuke the sector.

CHIEF JUDGE 2
Too bad about the 175,000 poor citizens who succumbed.

CHIEF JUDGE 3
(shakes his head)
The price of law and order...

CHIEF JUDGE 1
For every scientific advance we've made since the War, we've taken at least one step backwards...

CHIEF JUDGE 4
...toward another earth-rending disaster. Another apocalypse war, or a terminal mutation of the gene pool.

CHIEF JUDGE 3
Who's to say it hasn't already happened? They infest the Cursed Earth...

CHIEF JUDGE 1
...and surround the city.

DREDD
The last punitive expedition was a limited success. The Muties seem better armed each time we encounter them.

JUDGE FARGO
Equipped from our own convoys.

DREDD
Soon they'll feel strong enough to assault the wall again.

JUDGE FARGO
No one wants to see those kind of casualties now...and perhaps we won't have to.

Dredd looks up, listening. The Judges stir, sit up straighter underneath the carved Eagle of Justice emblem on the wall above them.

JUDGE FARGO
We received communications from a group calling themselves the Organization of Modified Humans for World Peace.

CHIEF JUDGE 3
Some sort of primitive mutant attempt at government.

JUDGE FARGO
If we're willing to accept a Peace Delegation into Mega-City One, they've promised safe passage for our convoys and mining operations.

DREDD
I've been to the Cursed Earth, sir. No one can control the nightmares out there.

JUDGE FARGO
The last three convoys came through without incident.

DREDD
What do they want?

CHIEF JUDGE 2
(sympathetic)
They want what everyone wants: food, shelter...peace. In spite of their appearances, they feel they have a lot to offer.

DREDD
Slow moving targets.

CHIEF JUDGE 1
Come now, Judge Dredd. We know for certain the effects of armed conflict. Perhaps we should investigate a rational discourse.

DREDD
What's this got to do with me?

JUDGE FARGO
The council has decided unanimously --
(glances at Judge 4)
-- to receive a delegation of business leaders and other influential...citizens. And listen to their proposals.

DREDD
Mutants inside the city walls? Even if they're not a herd of Trojan Horses, the people will go crazy when they see them. They'll tear them limb from limb --

JUDGE FARGO
In light of your past exploits, you've been chosen -- honored, I might even say -- to provide security for this delegation.

DREDD
Impossible.

JUDGE FARGO
Until they break the law, Judge Dredd...be they be human, mutant, alien or cyborg, they have the protection of the law.

DREDD
And if they break the law?

JUDGE FARGO
It's in your hands.

Dredd nods, turns and walks out.

INT. HALLWAY - HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

THREE HUGE BLOBS move toward CAMERA from the end of a long hallway, filling it from wall-to-wall. As they bounce down the hallway, the blobs are revealed as THREE GIANT FAT PEOPLE, two men and a woman, over 500 lbs. apiece, approaching like a great rolling wave of blubber. The helmets of the TWO JUDGES escorting them are barely visible over their bloated shoulders. As the unhappy Fatties near f.g., CAMERA PANS DOWN to reveal that they're rolling their giant paunches in front of them on "beliwheels". As they trundle past CAMERA with their escorts WE SEE a new group behind them: a half-dozen rapacious-looking SKINNIES also escorted by JUDGES, one of whom is carrying a rolled-up CHART.

INT. BOOKING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER - DAY

The high-tech booking room is a circus. Fatties lumped in one corner, Skinnies herded into the opposite. It takes all the Judges except the one in front of the BENCH to control them.

JUDGE CARTER
Found these Fatties rolling through the front wall of the Food Mart. Crushed two checkers and ate their way to the frozen food section before we could contain them.

The Fatties are screaming at the top of their lungs.

FATTIE 1
Big people need big meals!

FATTY WOMAN
Food creds should be distributed by weight!

BOOKING JUDGE
What about these other guys?

Judge Carter unrolls the chart: it's a Butcher's Guide to the Fatties showing a quarter-ton man divided and labelled into choice cuts.

JUDGE CARTER
These skinny guys were planning on a big meal themselves.

BOOKING ROBOT
The good of the community must come before the appetite of the individual...

CAMERA FOLLOWS Dredd and Judge Fargo as they walk by.

DREDD
The League of Fatties gets uglier every year.

JUDGE FARGO
(nods)
And the food shortage is more serious. That's one of the reasons this Mutie Peace Delegation is so important... If we can keep things calm in Mutie-Land, even for just a few months, we can build a food dome. Then we won't be so dependant on the convoys from Texas-City.

DREDD
A food dome in the Cursed Earth?

We've got enough problems in Mega-City One. Even if we make peace with the Muties, what about the tons of perps serving their time out there --

As they approach the entrance to the Hall of Science --

JUDGE FARGO
We're working on a scientific solution.

DREDD
(nods grimly)
I cleaned one up today.

INT. HALL OF SCIENCE LABORATORY - DAY

Anderson and a couple of SCIENTISTS have Fribb's notes spread out on the table.

SCIENTIST 1
I can't make heads nor tails of this...

SCIENTIST 2
(to Dredd)
Too bad we don't have any live specimens to examine.

SCIENTIST 1
Except Fribb, and we're having trouble keeping him from leaking out the sides of the Iso-Cube.

Anderson slumps to her knees, clutching her head and groaning.

SCIENTIST 1
It wasn't that funny...

Dredd steps to her side, kneels beside her.

DREDD
What's the matter?

She shakes her head violently as if trying to get something out of it. The others look even more concerned. After a moment she regains control of herself.

JUDGE FARGO
What is it?

JUDGE ANDERSON
Drokk, I don't know, I've never felt anything like that. Psychic migraine, I guess. But I keep getting an overwhelming sense of doom...

DREDD
(fishing)
From Mutie-Land...the Cursed Earth?

JUDGE ANDERSON
No, it's something farther away -- and much more frightening.

DREDD
I hope it was just a headache.

She gives him a grim look, then goes back to her usual flippant self.

JUDGE ANDERSON
So do I, Dreddie, so do I.

EXT. CURSED EARTH - MAKESHIFT HAMLET - DUSK

The sort of desert landscape that looks like the only rain that ever fell was acid rain. The sun sets like a fireball over a small village nestled in the rocks. Most of the buildings are made from cargo crates and transport trailers, but in the center of town there are single-story rock houses where the more prosperous Muties live and conduct their business.

As night falls, Muties hurry to their frail shelters, emptying the streets and barricading themselves against the horrors of the night.

INT. TRADER DAG'S SALOON CAFE & EMPORIUM - DUSK

One half of the large room is filled with the implements necessary for survival in the Cursed Earth -- shovels, axes, old-fashioned weapons. The other half is a Western-style saloon where the rougher elements of the town are gathered -- a ghastly gallery of HUMANOIDS, SLAVE TRADERS and other MUTANT RIFF-RAFF. Along with the drinking and gambling, a MUTIE WENCH bumps and grinds her way out of her clothes. The way she's built, we wish she wouldn't.

ANGLE - BAR

Two UGLY MUTIES, one wearing a helmet made out of a giant rat, the other with a beard that starts just below his eyes, suddenly rise up from their stools and face off, hands poised over their weapons. The fish-faced BARTENDER intercedes quickly.

BARTENDER
Cool your jets, boys, before I call the bouncer.

Without turning, RAT HELMET hits the Bartender so hard he flies into the large decorative TERRARIUM behind the bar, shattering the glass and sliding to the floor in a shower of sand and tiny desert reptiles. Seizing the moment, HAIRY goes for his piece. But his hand halts in mid-air at the SOUND of a small voice.

EARPLUG (V.O.)
Touch that piece and your brain is oatmeal.

Both muties turn.

REVERSE - EARPLUG

The Bouncer is a tiny redheaded girl in her late-teens, EARPLUG, who looks perfectly normal for a punk. For someone her size, she seems to have a great deal of authority.

EARPLUG
Either set down or take it outside.

ANGLE - BAR

With dopey grins and hands open in front of them, the two Muties back off immediately, sit down and start chatting pleasantly. Their hands tremble as they reach for their drinks. Earplug nods at the Bartender as he staggers to his feet draped in tiny reptiles. He nods that he's all right and casually picks a lizard off his shoulder and eats it.

INT. BACK ROOM - TRADER DAG'S LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Earplug steps into the small, cluttered room behind the bar, closes the door quietly behind her. The room is full of high-tech informational equipment with old mouldering books stacked everywhere. Earplug crosses to the huge sleeping hammock where TRADER DAG is tossing and turning.

She puts her hand on his forehead, concentrates, and the figure in the hammock relaxes. Except for a distinct yellowish cast to his skin and snail-like vestigial horns, Trader Dag looks fairly normal from this ANGLE.

FOLLOW Earplug to the kitchen unit where she sighs and starts to make tea. She HEARS the creaking of the hammock as Dag wakes up.

ANGLE

Using a bar chained to the ceiling, Dag levers his ungainly body out of the hammock. Somewhat resembling an upright banana slug, his dwarf-like arms and legs protrude from the gelatinous mass of his trunk. A wise and placid human face is buried in a swooping crest of flesh topped by the two antennae.

Earplug comes over, takes his arm, and leads him to his desk chair, a basket-like sling.

EARPLUG
Bad dreams again?

TRADER DAG
Ya, these things are weighing heavy on my mind.

EARPLUG
Are you sure you're up to leading the delegation?

TRADER DAG
I've given my life to this notion of peace. A chance for civilization in the Cursed Earth. If it costs my life, it's worth it.

EARPLUG
Not to me, Dag. You've made peace right here -- and with your mind, not with guns and cages like they do in Mega-City.

TRADER DAG
I was the last of my kind -- I was the only one who survived the journey from Apocalypse Canal to here. Where I found people who were willing to trade instead of take by force. We tamed the monsters, beat off the Angel Gang. We've earned our right to be treated like men.

EARPLUG
You're dreaming.

Dag frowns, remembering his bad dreams, and shudders like jello.

EARPLUG
What's the matter?

TRADER DAG
My dreams should be of peace, not doom and dark shadows.

EARPLUG
If one of those Judge bastards lays a fingers on you, I'll blow his helmet off. With his head in it.

TRADER DAG
After all I've taught you...
(smiles)
...through these long years of your banishment, since the day I found you hiding underneath my store, you've been like a daughter to me.
(a beat)
I don't want you to come.

EARPLUG
Are you kidding? You don't have a slug's chance in a beer barrel without me.

TRADER DAG
Hmmph, Earplug, I love the way you express your concern with such respect.

EARPLUG
Hey, no problema, Pops. And anyway, I want to see the look on Judge Dredd's face when he sees my little banished ass back on the streets.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITY EXPRESSWAY - NIGHT

As Judge Dredd threads his Lawmaster through a nexus of interlocking roads, higher and higher, above the traffic toward a lighted pinnacle above the city. At the very top, he arrives at an Observation Post, nods to the other Judges, stops his bike and takes a long look down at the city.

ECU - DREDD

He looks like justice with the blindfold off -- implacable, distant, determined -- staring at the sea of blinking lights below him.

BLINKING LIGHTS - A DISCO

Sweaty, blank-faced CITIZENS dance wildly to the ROCK MUSIC in a cavernous DISCO inside Charlton Heston Block. The strobe-lit dance floor is surrounded by giant vidscreens. Nobody seems attached to anybody, except those couples who occasionally bite each other.

CENTER DANCE FLOOR - CLOSER ANGLE

A group of frenetic DANCERS contort violently under the strobe lights. They command the center of the floor, keeping other dancers out by banging into them. As their writhings become orgiastic and fragmented, the dark figure of a JUDGE slowly materializes in the middle of the group, gaining substance with each flash of the strobe.

DANCING COUPLE

A particularly repulsive slamdancing COUPLE bump into the body of the dark Judge, rebound and, without looking, crash into him again to clear their space. When the Judge doesn't move, they turn and see JUDGE DEATH staring down at them.

At first, he looks like a Judge, but the colors of his uniform are muddy and lifeless, his badge is a death's head with the word "Death" written across it, and his shoulderplate armour is fashioned from bones and bats' wings. The visor on his helmet looks like the barred entrance to a dungeon in hell; behind its grate glistens a death mask of a face.

BOY DANCER
Make room, Judgie, this is our place.

The Girl Dancer realizes this isn't a normal Judge, just as Death's talon-like fingers grasp her throat, cutting off her strangled cry, and throw her like a bowling ball through the other dancers. He confronts the Boy.

JUDGE DEATH
Lots of room...

He throws the Boy Dancer into the D.J.'S BOOTH.

JUDGE DEATH
Lots of room to die.

As DAMAGED DANCERS pick themselves up and OTHERS TURN, laughing, a tall, heavily-muscled PUNK slaps Death on the back. As Judge Death slowly turns, the Punk stops laughing. Death reaches his bony hand into the Punk's chest -- and squeezes. The Punk goes rigid, his eyes popping, his mouth open but soundless.

JUDGE DEATH
My name iss Death. I have come to judge you.

He turns loose of the Punk, who falls to the floor, already dead. As LIGHTS come up, Death walks through the jumble of the crowd, sowing death, as SCREAMS and PANIC take hold.

ANGLE - WRECKED D.J. BOOTH

The DISC JOCKEY climbs, dazed, out from under the debris, still wearing a pair of comic oversized-eyeball eyeglasses, and finds Judge Death staring him in the face.

Judge Death offers him a hand.

D.J.
Oh, my soul. Please, I'm just a harmless button jock --

JUDGE DEATH
(reaching inside of him)
Dying iss easy...dying iss good. Do not be afraid.

He notices people fleeing toward the exits, and grins.

ANGLE - EXIT DOORS

We HEAR the loud clinking of locks. As the panic-stricken CROWD crashes into the locked doors, they riot like rats in a cage.

MOVING WITH JUDGE DEATH

as he goes about his grim business. He points his finger at the TAPE PLAYER and ROCK DISCO MUSIC resumes above the screaming.

JUDGE DEATH
This is my dance.

EXT. DISCO - INSIDE CITY-BLOCK MALL - NIGHT
(NOTE 11/23:rewrite for EXT. STREET)

The "Rabbit Hutch" Disco is actually inside the huge shopping mall within Hugh Hefner Block. THREE JUDGES are running toward the door, GIANT, ROSS and COE. They have to BLAST their way in, shoving aside the CURIOUS ONLOOKERS attracted by the screams.

INT. DISCO - NIGHT

The carnage is complete. Dead bodies scattered everywhere. The Judges halt their rush, appalled at the nightmare on the dance floor.

JUDGE ROSS
What's that smell...?

Across the room, the dark figure of Judge Death steps out of the shadows.

JUDGE COE
Drokk, a Judge.

JUDGE GIANT
(looking closer)
Or the mockery of one.

CLOSE SHOT - JUDGE DEATH

Gazing through his portcullis at the mortal Judges.

JUDGE DEATH
Have you come to witness judgment?

ANGLE

Ross starts toward him.

JUDGE ROSS
No, we've come to kick your butt in an Iso-Cube, buddy.

JUDGE GIANT
Stay back, Ross.

Ross takes his handcuffs off his belt, reaches for Judge Death's arm. Death raises his arm, then drops it, passing through Ross's neck and shoulder like a broadsword, killing him instantly.

Judges Giant and Coe raise their Lawgivers --

JUDGE GIANT
Rapid fire! Blow him away!

They pump half-a-dozen SHOTS apiece into Judge Death, shredding his body. Death slumps to his knees. Giant and Coe move in. But before they get there, Judge Death rises up again.

JUDGE DEATH
You cannot kill what does not live.

Death reaches toward the Judges, who beat a hasty retreat but find the exit doors locked again.

JUDGE GIANT
Who is this creep?

JUDGE COE
Let's ask him later --

Coe keeps firing at Judge Death while Giant blows open the exit door with a small hand GRENADE. Just before Judge Death reaches them, they scramble over the dead bodies into the Mall.

INT. MALL GALLERY - NIGHT

The Judges try to clear the Mall as Death steps into the Gallery. As he walks toward them, windows EXPLODE.

A WOMAN with several packages blunders out of a shoe-store into the path of Death. He cuts her down with a swooping motion.

Her husband, behind her, starts to protest. Death picks him up and flings him over the gallery rail, where his SCREAMS are heard fading into the distance, stories below.

INT. BLOCK - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

DREDD scatters PASSERS-BY as he rides in, stops and listens. He HEARS ALARMS and SCREAMING from the Mall beyond, starts up his bike and ROARS into the Mall -- just in time to SEE the Husband's body crash-land on a Hot Dog Stand.

SHOPPERS are fleeing around him, trampling each other. The glass ELEVATORS are stopped between levels, packed with PEOPLE. Suddenly, all the grates and doors CRASH SHUT all over the Mall.

Dredd turns with a start as the main door slams shut behind him. He fires up his bike, spins and fires a rocket at the main grate, letting the shoppers pour out. Then he spins again, turns on his SIREN and roars toward the ESCALATORS.

INT. MALL - DISCO LEVEL - NIGHT

It looks as if a small war has taken place. Judges Giant and Coe have exhausted their firepower, trying to hold back Judge Death, and are now huddled with a group of panicked Citizens against a locked grate.

Giant throws his gun at Death, who catches it and laughs.

ESCALATORS - JUDGE DREDD

He charges his motorcycle up the escalators.

DISCO LEVEL - AS BEFORE

Judge Giant charges into the waiting arms of Death to take him on in hand-to-hand combat. Judge Death breaks his back with a loud snap.

MOVING WITH DREDD

As he comes off the escalator onto the Disco level and races up to the locked gate -- which opens so suddenly, people fall down. They scramble to their feet and flee around him; Dredd turns off his siren, draws his Lawgiver and walks through the now-clear path, seeing Judge Death for the first time.

JUDGE COE
Our bullets just go right through him -- we can't kill him!

DREDD
(to Death)
Who are you?

JUDGE DEATH
I've come to judge this city.

JUDGE COE
Judge it?

JUDGE DEATH
I bring the law...the law of death.

DREDD
I've been known to do a little judging myself.

Judge Death begins his implacable advance toward the group. Dredd fires a clipful of rounds, but Death keeps coming.

JUDGE COE
This guy isn't human!

Dredd reloads, retreating.

DREDD
Get everybody out of here.

Coe helps the last of the Citizens flee as Dredd retreats to his bike and mounts it.

JUDGE DEATH
Your weapons are worthless against death.

Dredd lifts the cover off the rocket-arming switch.

INSERT - ROCKET CONTROL BUTTONS

He arms one labelled "Incendiary," quickly punches in range and target information.

GALLERY - AS BEFORE

As Death is almost on top of Dredd --

DREDD
I don't know where you came from, but I know where you're going -- straight to hell.

He punches the firing button and dives to the side.

The firing of the rocket is followed instantly by a fiery EXPLOSION that engulfs Death in a ball of white-hot flame. Other JUDGES come running up in time to see Judge Death going up like an inhuman torch.

Dredd stands up and watches to pyre that appears to consume Judge Death. The body remains upright until the flames begin to die, then its hulk crashes to the floor. Judge Coe rejoins Dredd.

JUDGE COE
My grud, Dredd, what kind of monster is it?

DREDD
A toasty one.

FOCUS on Judge Death's helmet. A tendril of GREEN SMOKE drifts out of the visor; it grows larger and more substantial as it rises until we can SEE the smoky essence of Death's hideous head.

JUDGES
(ad-lib)
Dok! Look at it...it's getting thicker.

JUDGE DEATH
You have just delayed me...that iss all. This city iss evil. I will cleanse it.

The smoke starts to drift away.

JUDGE DEATH (CONT.)
All will be judged.

The smoke vanishes, leaving a clean, white SKELETON on the floor in front of them.

ANGLE - DREDD & JUDGES

Everyone looks relieved.

JUDGE COE
Sometimes I think the whole social fabric is crumbling.

Dredd gives him a scowl.

DREDD
This guy sure as hell isn't taking any prisoners...
(looks at skeleton)
Neither are we.

JUDGE COE
Grud, we'd have to bottle him...

DREDD
Whatever it takes.

He turns back to his bike.

INT. HALL OF SCIENCE - NIGHT

A PHALANX OF JUDGES and SCIENTISTS stride grimly toward CAMERA; bringing up the rear, two gravedigger-like MORGUE ATTENDANTS wheel Judge Death's remains on a gurney.

MORGUE ATTENDANT 1
At least this one's light...

MORGUE ATTENDANT 2
Yeah, but he stinks worse'n those lizards we brought in this morning.

Dredd appears at the opposite end of the hall, and follows the column into the MORGUE.

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

PAN ACROSS the skeleton, laid out on an autopsy table, and PULL BACK to REVEAL an enormous, futuristic MORGUE.

SEVERAL SCIENTISTS wearing masks, lean over the bones, assisted by a ROBO-DOC. Dredd and other Judges looking over their shoulders.

SCIENTIST 1
This should be easy -- nothing but bones.

A PATHOLOGIST joins the group, carrying a SLIDE.

PATHOLOGIST
...found this tissue sample on the Disc Jockey's myocardial sheath. It's human -- or at least I think it is -- but it's dead. It's been dead a long time...

SCIENTIST 2
Maybe one of the Psi-Division Judges can tell us something.

DREDD
That'll be the day.

Just then, Anderson saunters in.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Someone mention my name?

DREDD
I'd better fill you in.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Save your breath, Dreddie. I already know all.
(cheeky)
All your guilty secrets.

DREDD
I have no guilty secrets.

JUDGE ANDERSON
(laughs)
What about this guy?

The others make a path for her, and she stands over the skeleton.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Hope you left enough to get a reading... Come on, Mystery Judge, let's boogie.

DREDD
(to Scientist)
I wish they'd sent us somebody serious.

SCIENTIST 1
Shhh! Psi-Judges are very highly strung.

ANGLE - ANDERSON

She lays her hands on Death's skull and a comvulsive shiver runs through her.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Holy Apocalypse...that's what I felt before.

Dredd moves to her side. She gives him a brave grin, getting up her courage, and puts her hands back on the skeleton. She becomes rigid, grits her teeth.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Oh, man -- it's so strong!

DREDD
Try to hang on.

She moans as CAMERA MOVES into LOW ANGLE ECU. Suddenly, Death's VOICE comes out of her clenched teeth.

ANDERSON/DEATH
You wishh to speak to me?

SCIENTIST (V.O.)
What's that?

ANGLE - DREDD

Dredd motions the others back.

DREDD
That's him --
(to Voice)
Who are you? What do you want?

ANDERSON/DEATH
You call yourselvess Judges and you dare to ask me that? My name is Death -- I have come from my world to judge yourss.

DREDD
We're the Judges here. Who are you to judge us?

ANDERSON/DEATH
You are all guilty...and must be punished.

DREDD
We've committed no crimes.

ANDERSON/DEATH
The crime iss life. The sentence iss death.

Anderson emits a CRY as her body trembles uncontrollably. Dredd grabs her wrists, jerks her hands off Death's bones, breaking contact. Scientists attend to her as she falls down.

DREDD
What kind of warped world is it where life is a crime?

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

The city at night, its millions of lights streaking and blinking. The Hall of News, a tall building in the center, dominates the scene.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Judge Dredd is giving Judge Anderson a ride hom on his Lawmaster. As they pass in front of a bank of large VIDSCREENS at the Hall of News. Small crowds of transfixed NEWS JUNKIES watch avidly.

INSERT - TV CLIPS

A newsvid from Charles Darwin Block, earlier that day: bodies and smoke pouring out of the building. Shots of primordial beasts in their death throes.

VIDCASTER
(cheerfully)
A hundred seventy five thousand citizens found time to turn back the clock at the Charles Darwin Block this morning...

MOVING SHOT - DREDD AND ANDERSON

Anderson glances over her shoulder at the screen.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Busy day today, Dreddie?

DREDD
I wish you wouldn't call me that.

Dredd notices smoke coming from a sewer grate, pulls over, sniffs the air.

JUDGE ANDERSON
You have to be on duty all the time?

DREDD
I'm the law.

JUDGE ANDERSON
I'm tired. It's not every day I get to talk to dead people from another world...

DREDD
This won't take a minute --

He steps off his bike, picks up the grate and shouts inside.

DREDD
All right, perps, up here!

A small group of HAGGARD SMOKERS emerge from the sewer, the last one still smoking a cigar. Dredd reaches for the cigar, but one of the other smokers grabs it out of the guy's mouth, trying to get a last puff. They all try to get it, and it slips away and rolls into the sewer.

DREDD
Why aren't you in the Smokatorium?

SMOKER 1
You have to wait a month for a reservation.

SMOKER 2
Please, Judge, we were blowing it into the sewer vents...

Anderson comes over.

DREDD
There's plenty of things to smoke in the Cursed Earth --

The Smokers begin to howl.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Why don't you give the poor devils a break... They can't help themselves.

DREDD
Laws were made to protect citizens -- not please them.

A PERP-WAGON pulls up as Dredd rounds up the smoking perps.

EXT. ERICA JONG BLOCK - NIGHT

Dredd drives Anderson to the entrance of her block.

DREDD
You live here?

She gets off the bike, takes her helmet off, shakes her hair out.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Sure, what do you do for fun?

DREDD
I don't know what you're talking about, I'm a Judge.

JUDGE ANDERSON
(knowing look)
Yeah, as far as I can see, you've got a helmet instead of a head.

DREDD
That verges on insubordination, Anderson.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Sorry, long day. You should learn to relax, Dredd...there's more to life than the law.

DREDD
Not as long as Judge Death's out there. You think you'll be all right?

JUDGE ANDERSON
I wouldn't mind if you walked me to my room.

INT. HALLWAY - 162ND FLOOR - NIGHT

As they step off the ELEVATOR, walk down the hall. She's got her arm draped through his elbow and her face turned up to his

JUDGE ANDERSON
-- I could control my powers before I was six, but they made me go to Psi-College anyway...it was too easy, so I dropped out and applied to the Psi-Division. I always liked the Judge and Perp shows on vid when I was a kid -- What about you?

DREDD
I was cloned at the Academy. They wouldn't let us watch that trash.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Oh, Dreddie, if your jock was on any tighter, your ears would be red.

They stop at her apartment door.

JUDGE ANDERSON (CONT.)
Can I buy you a drink? Nothing illegal, of course.

DREDD
Maybe another time. You get some rest --

JUDGE ANDERSON
I hope I can --

DREDD
-- I might need you again.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Look, Dredd, he needs something. I couldn't find out what. That creep's mind blew my circuits. He must be working on direct current --

DREDD
We'll be ready.

Anderson unlocks her door.

JUDGE ANDERSON
Try not to make it a night call next time. Well, see you later, terminator.

She goes inside and locks the door O.S. Dredd walks back to the elevator.

INT. ANDERSON'S APARTMENT - TIME CONTINUOUS

She walks in, exhausted, turns on a light, begins to remove her bulky uniform. She pauses to slip a CompactVid into the player, starts watching Abbott & Costello.

INT. ANDERSON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

She's in bed, barely asleep.

DEATH'S VOICE
(softly)
Don't sleeep, Anderssson.

She comes awake with a start, looks around anxiously.

HER POV

of the dark, empty bedroom. No one's there. Her gaze lingers on the window, at the distant lights of neighboring blocks outside.

CU - ANDERSON - AS BEFORE

She tries to keep her eyes open, but fails. When her head hits the pillow, she's asleep.

EXT. OUTSIDE DAG'S VILLAGE - CURSED EARTH - DAWN

The SUN RISES like a red, angry ball, filling FRAME. PULL BACK revealing a road in the Cursed Earth extending across the scarred plain. A group of MUTIE DELEGATES, MOTORCYCLE-MOUNTED SCOUTS & OUTRIDERS are gathering beside a large, primitive ARMORED TRANSPORT VEHICLE in a rocky clearing just outside of town.

CLOSER ANGLE - CLEARING

Dag is being helped out of his sling-like sedan chair by the BEARERS and Earplug. Feet and tail firmly on the ground, Dag sighs momentously.

TRADER DAG
Mark this moment. A new beginning. A chance for all who call themselves human to enjoy the benefits of civilization.

EARPLUG
Speaking as a human, sort of, civilization ain't all it's cracked up to be... I like it here.

DAG
You have to think of more than just yourself...

EARPLUG
I am.

FLYBALL, a rotund dwarf in a flowing white robe, arrives in buoyant spirits.

FLYBALL
All set, sir. One more thing and then we can load up --

DAG
Is he ready?

FLYBALL
Dr. Wu is bringing him out now. The operation on the hostage was a success.

EARPLUG
What hostage?

DAG
Mean-Machine Angel. He's our guarantee of safe passage through Angel Gang territory.

EARPLUG
I hope you've got him in a good cage.

FLYBALL
The best. Dr. Wu has seen to that.

NEW ANGLE

DR. WU, an Asian mutant, leads MEAN-MACHINE ANGEL around the corner of the vehicle up to the group.

Mean-Machine is a ferocious-looking bionic biker. His right arm is a titanium prosthetic claw with two hooks on the end, and he has a steel plate over his skull with a DIAL in the center of his forehead. A pressure gauge, its setting range from "apathetic" through " mellow" to " involved."

DR. WU
He's a new man.

Dr. Wu presents Dag with the "OLD" DIAL. Dag and Flyball examine the dial, looking satisfied.

INSERT - MEAN MACHINE'S OLD DIAL

The four settings on the dial read "surly," "mean," "vicious," and finally "brutal."

A finger flicks the arrow, which spins.

DR. WU (V.O.)
Once he was the most hated outlaw of the Post-Apocalypse. Now he's as harmless as a baby.

INSERT: Mean-Machine looks down at the spinning arrow, his expression decidedly "mellow."

DAG
A perfect way to show the Judges the potential for peace and scientific advancement in the Cursed Earth.

He smiles benignly at Earplug, who shudders.

FLYBALL
(to Mean-Machine)
Mean, will you help Trader Dag to his quarters?

Mean-Machine smiles dopily, offers Dag his prosthesis first, then excuses himself and offers his muscular human arm. Dag graciously nods his approval. As Mean-Machine leads him up the loading ramp, MUTIE MEDIA FLASHBULBS go off, and DELEGATES applaud with whatever appendages they have.

FLYBALL
(to Earplug)
After you, human.

EARPLUG
If anything happens to Dag, Flyball, you're going to wish I was human.

She touches her forehead and smiles grimly at Flyball, who flinches.

EXT. CITY BLOCK - SUSPENDED BUSPORT - DAY

COMMUTERS and CONSUMERS crowd a suspended BUSPORT that hangs in front of the 200th Floor of the Ricardo Montalban Block, waiting for the mid-level MONOBUS. VIDSCREENS are stacked like newspaper racks, each one displaying a different show. In b.g. the massive revolving VIDSCREEN atop the Hall of News slowly rotates with its flow of NEWS and OTHER PROGRAMMING.

As the MONOBUS -- an open-air double-decker transport already crowded with PASSENGERS whose faces are locked on the Vidscreens - floats up to port, ALL THE SCREENS FLASH: News Bulletin!

VIDCASTER
Remember those Muties who stormed the Wall last year, well, they're on their way back -- and this time the gates are open. A group called the -- get this -- Modified Humans for World Peace is sending a delegation to explore the poss-ibilities for...

The rest of the BULLETIN is drowned out by the murmuring of the CROWD milling in front of the BUS.

CROWD (AD-LIB)
Muties...what?...Inside the walls?

The VIDSCREENS FLASH with STOCK FOOTAGE of MUTIES ATTACKING THE WALL and being beaten back by Judges.

As the murmur grows to a roar, many citizens are agitated and ONE COMMUTER brandishing his plasteel briefcase assaults the rack of Vidscreens.

CRAZED COMMUTER
Muties raped my mother!

As others join the attack --

ANOTHER COMMUTER
They stole my wife!

-- Judge Dredd pulls up on his bike, collars the miscreants.

DREDD
(to crazed commuter)
Vidbashing is a serious crime, Citizen.

VOICE FROM CROWD
Judge Dredd...Judge Dredd, what about the Muties -- can't you keep the Muties out of here?

Dredd looks from the fearful Crowd to the Stock Footage in b.g. It's a post-combat interview with Dredd himself.

DREDD
Don't get your grud in an uproar, Citizens, there's nothing to worry about...

But he looks distracted and concerned as he clamps the electronic HANDCUFF on the crazed Perp. He's calmed down now -- but too late.

VIDBASHER
Gee, Judge, I don't know what got into me.

DREDD
Six months in an Iso-Cube will give you time to figure it out.
(punches code on cuffs)
You've got two hours to get to the nearest substation.

He drives off leaving the still-restless crowd to file onto the bus.

EXT. CURSED EARTH DESERT - CARAVAN - DAY

The Peace Delegation caravan enters a narrow canyon. The Scouts and Outriders are on alert. Mean Angel stands atop the armored vehicle, with others huddled below him, looking around nervously. MUTIE BIKERS and OUTCASTS line the canyon walls like Indians in an old Western.

The ANGEL GANG occupies a bluff overlooking the scene. They're not mutants, but they look like they should be: PA ANGEL has a round, bloated, pitted face, and his TWO SONS who flank him aren't any prettier.

In the armored well below Mean Machine, Dag resolutely ignores the danger as his delegation forges through hostile territory. Dr. Wu has a nervous, self-satisfied smirk.

DR. WU
There's your dad, Mean Machine.

Mean turns, SEES his Dad and Brothers, smiles dopily as he begins to wave.

Pa Angel spits on the ground and starts up his bike.

PA ANGEL
Let's get out of here.

JUNIOR ANGEL
Where we goin', pa?

PA ANGEL
To the wall, stupid.

Down below, as the Delegation watches the Angel Gang retreat and heaves a collective sigh of relief...Dag turns to Earplug.

DAG
I told you everything would be all right...

Suddenly, he shudders, great waves of flesh quivering under his robe.

EARPLUG
What's the matter?

DAG
That dream -- I can't get it out of my head.

Earplug watches him, worried. Unnoticed, Dr. Wu stares at the dust of the retreating Angel Gang and smiles inscrutably.

EXT. MEGA-CITY ONE - THE WALL - DAY

Atop the high WALL, SENTRY-JUDGES man laser cannons aimed toward a jumble of rude SHELTERS and TENTS where a large group of wretched EXILES and MUTIES gather just outside the dead line. Some are watching primitive portable VIDSETS, glued to the staticky Newscasts.

VIDCASTER
...and the Judges say these talks could lead to new avenues of cooperation between the City and responsible citizens of the Cursed Earth...

Others gaze with hopeful longing at the skyline of the CITY behind the dome. One GROUP starts singing MUTIE FOLKSONGS.

INT. ANDERSON'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

ECU on Anderson's sleeping face. A grimace of pain contorts her lovely features and she wakes up and puts her palms to her sweat-ridden forehead. She groans.

ANDERSON
Boy, that creep really fried my brainpan...

CAMERA PULLS BACK SLOWLY as she rises, naked, and slips into a robe. She heads for the SHOWER CUBE. Outside the shower cube, she stretches sleepily...then reaches in and turns on the water...then hangs her robe on a hook and steps into the shower.

ANDERSON IN SHOWER

Her body obscured by the steam and the fine spray, letting the hot water massage her neck and shoulders.

ANGLE - BEDROOM WINDOW

A green dot appears in the center of the pane, glows brightly, then oozes through the window glass in a green vapor. The vaporous tendrils of Death search the room for Anderson, seeking her out in the shower.

BACK TO ANDERSON

Her eyes closed, her head tilted back, letting the water course over her breasts as the smoky head and shoulders of Judge Death materializes in the steam behind her. He touches her shoulder with his translucent hand. She stiffens in shock.

JUDGE DEATH
Andersson...I neeed your mind...

ANDERSON
No -- not you!

She turns, mouth gaping -- as the tendrils entwine about her head taking possession of her.

INT. MORGUE - HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

MOVING WITH ANDERSON as she throws open the doors to the Morgue and walks down the long aisle between the Autopsy Tables. A couple of DOCTORS wave to her, but she's in a trance, a slight green aura around her head.

Ignoring the racks of bodies, she walks directly to the table containing Death's bones, where she pauses.

DEATH'S VOICE
You cannot resist me, Andersson.
We will be partners...in death.

Anderson stiffly gathers up the skeleton in her arms and heads toward the door.

The two Doctors move curiously toward her.

DOCTOR 1
Judge Anderson?

DOCTOR 2
Where are you taking that body?

She kicks Doctor 2 in the groin so hard he disappears from the FRAME. Doctor 1 moves to block her. Anderson staggers, trying to fight Judge Death's control.

ANDERSON
Keep away from me -- I can't -- help myself!

DOCTOR 1
Put that body down!

ANDERSON/DEATH
He mussst die!

Anderson gives the Doctor a karate kick that drives him back through the doors.

EXT. EXPRESSWAY NEAR HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

Dredd is riding to work on his Lawmaster; he's running a break in the morning TRAFFIC, weaving from lane to lane forcing everyone to observe the speed limit. The speed limit <u>is</u> the law.

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

As Dredd pulls up in front of the Hall of Justice, an AMBULANCE SCREAMS away from the side of the building.

EXT./INT. AMBULANCE - ANDERSON - DAY

Anderson speeds, transfixed, still struggling against Death's control.

DEATH'S VOICE
Don't fight, I'm too strong for you...

ANDERSON
(through clenched teeth)
Get lost, creep.

Death chuckles. She jerks the wheel to the left, heading the ambulance toward a LIGHT POLE.

DEATH'S VOICE
Thiss iss foolishh, Andersson --

ANGLE

The Ambulance CRASHES into the light pole. Death's SKELETON flies through the windshield and lands with a loud, rattling clatter of bones on the street. HOLD on the WRECK a beat -- then Anderson comes out stiffly, walking like a marionette with a drunk on the strings.

Death's skeleton abruptly sits up on the sidewalk, waiting for Anderson.

DEATH'S VOICE
Now you musst walk...it iss not far.

She picks up the bones.

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - MORGUE - DAY

As Doctor 2 struggles to the alarm, clutching his crotch, and hits it.

INT. JUSTICE BUILDING HALLWAY - DREDD

reacting to the alarm.

EXT. WIDE DESERTED ALLEY - DAY

Anderson is carrying Death's remains toward the entrance to a large DESERTED BUILDING. Faded letters on the side indicate a closed-down Umpty Candy factory. She pauses at the door.

ANDERSON
Gotta -- fight --

Death just laughs, and Anderson kicks in the door.

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - PSI-DIVISION HQ - DAY

A frantic group of PSI-DIVISION TELEPATHS scramble into the HQ and arrange themselves around a circular table. The LIGHTS DIM as they concentrate. One moans and falls face first into the table, passing out. A SENIOR TELEPATH looks up, golden earrings dangling from her gypsy's face.

SENIOR TELEPATH
Judge Death's trying to stop her transmitting -- but Anderson won't quit! I don't know where she is...I'm just getting one word -- over and over. "Boing."

DREDD (V.O.)
"Boing?"

NEW ANGLE - DREDD & JUDGES

Dredd, alert in the shadows, like a quarterback waiting for the ball, with Judges huddled around him.

DREDD (CONT.)
You mean the miracle spray?

JUDGE DE SALVO
That sounds crazy --

DREDD
Anderson wouldn't send it unless it was important.

The Telepath who passed out picks his head up.

TELEPATH 2
Eastern quadrant, Sector Two -- she's stopped moving.

DREDD
Keep trying for an exact fix.
(to DeSalvo)
Get me a Boing unit and follow us to Sector Two. If he gets his body back, we may not be able to handle him this time.

INT. UMPTY CANDY FACTORY - WALK-IN FREEZ-CHAMBER - DAY

A large FREEZER CHAMBER sets behind the huge CANDY VATS. The skeleton is lying on a table underneath a hovering apparatus -- a 21st Century Frankenstein machine fitted with powerful lasers. Anderson stands limply by, Judge Death's head wafting like a holograph above her.

DEATH'S VOICE
The Dead Fluids will heal my body!

LASER BEAMS shoot out of the machine, bathing the bones in bright green light of deathly regeneration.

EXT. STREETS - SECTOR 2 - DAY

Dredd, DeSalvo and Judges roar down the street on Lawmasters toward the front of the deserted candy factory.

DEATH'S BODY

The body of Judge Death takes shape under the laser massage.

ECU - ANDERSON

She stands there, almost dead on her feet, unable to resist any longer.

INT. FACTORY - CANDY VATS

Dredd and the others slip around the vats. When he SEES the FREEZ-CHAMBER, he turns to his men.

DREDD
It's airtight. After I go in, shut the door and keep it shut.

JUDGE DE SALVO
But Dredd --

DREDD
Gimme the can.

He grabs a fire-extinguisher-size cannister labelled "Boing," and leads the Judges toward the freez-chamber door.

FREEZE-CHAMBER - NEW ANGLE

Death's body is nearly complete. His Deathshead grins above Anderson's face.

JUDGE DEATH
Soon this planet will be judged.

DREDD
Think again!

The door slams behind Dredd, sealing him inside. He begins FIRING H.E. ROUNDS at the apparatus. CHUNKS FLY off the machine, disabling it. As soon as the laser beams disappear, so does the body. Then Dredd BLOWS THE BONES AWAY.

DEATH'S VOICE
Again you defy me --

The GREEN SMOKE darts toward the door, only to find it sealed.

DREDD
No way out, worm-breath. It's you and me now.

The SMOKE suddenly curls back toward Anderson, now slumped on the floor. We SEE it re-enter her body and Dredd lets his Lawgiver drop to his side, unwilling to shoot at Anderson.

Anderson leaps up from the floor and drops Dredd with a spinning back fist, Death's VOICE roaring in anger from her mouth.

THE BIG FIGHT

Dredd rolls into the corner, his pistol flying one way, the Boing cannister the other. He bounces to his feet and dives for the cannister, only to be blocked by Anderson, who catches him in mid-air and hurls him across the room.

ANDERSON/DEATH
You cannot kill...what does not live!

Anderson/Death picks up Dredd's pistol and raises it to fire. Dredd, still groggy in the corner, looks death in the face -- he's a goner. Anderson's face contorts, struggling again --

ANDERSON
Now, Dredd! Do it!

As Death pulls the trigger, Anderson is able to deflect his aim long enough for Dredd to grab the cannister.

DREDD
Goodbye, Anderson.

He stands, staggering, aiming the nozzle at Anderson. With he last bit of will, Anderson comes to attention -- then Dredd FIRES. A clear, viscous FLUID envelopes Anderson's erect body in a PLASTIC BUBBLE. It hardens quickly into a transparent rock with her body frozen inside. Dredd stares at it for a moment, then limps to the door and opens it.

The other Judges enter quickly, then pull up when they see Anderson locked in the Boing bubble.

JUDGE DE SALVO
What in the Cursed Earth --

ANOTHER JUDGE
Where's Death...?

Dredd nods toward Anderson.

DREDD
She knew we couldn't kill him -- we had to trap him. He's inside her body.

As the CAMERA MOVES IN on Anderson, suspended inside the plastic miracle crypt.

DREDD (V.O./CONT.)
She traded her life -- to stop Death's judgment. Forever.

JUDGE 2 (V.O.)
She was a good judge.

DREDD (V.O.)
(nods)
For a Psi-Judge.

As CAMERA CONTINUES into ECU of Anderson, a slight sardonic smile can almost be seen on her face, as we --

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COLLONADE OF HEROES - DAY

Shafts of dusty SUNLIGHT pierce the Great Hall and its PUBLIC EXHIBITS, momentoes and displays of heroic Judges and the history of the Post-Apocalyptic world. The empty Hall is dominated by a crypt-sized rectangle cut from the Boing bubble, which sits on a stone pedestal. Anderson is sealed forever inside the Boing cube. At her feet, an ornate plaque reads "Supreme Sacrifice" and below that, on the stone, "Judge Anderson/A Monster Dwells Within."

Dredd is standing at Anderson's head, his fingers running lightly on the Boing surface above her face, his head bowed in tribute.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITY WALL - MAIN GATES - DAY

The MUTIE CARAVAN arrives in front of the huge gates to Mega-City One, the great dome glistening above them. The large band of Exiles and Muties gathered in the rocks outside the entrance CHEER and WAVE. Dag waves back proudly, then stares up at the Wall.

WALL - DAG'S POV

Grim-faced JUDGES line the wall, weapons drawn. Below them, SIGNS read "Welcome to Mega-City One. Unauthorized entry prohibited by law. Violations punishable by death."

CARAVAN - AS BEFORE - MOVING TOWARD GATES

The CROWD becomes agitated as the Caravan is allowed to cross the burnt-striped Dead Line and proceed to the GATE. Individual SHOUTS break out amid the CHANTING.

MUTIE REFUGEES
Curse the Cursed Earth --

SHOUTERS
More food...clean air...let us in...sanctuary!

In the excitement, a ragged OLD WOMAN is jostled off of her perch on a rock. She accidentally tumbles over the Dead Line. The SENTRY JUDGES' reaction is instantaneous: a Laser CANNON vaporizes the Old Woman with a loud electronic CRACK. Dag looks back bitterly as the crowd draws back, and Earplug frowns beside him. But before they can speak, the Caravan stops and the GATES SWING OPEN. Dag and the others stare.

Dredd stands at the front of a phalanx of JUDGES.

EARPLUG
(to Dag)
Welcome to Mega City.

Dag glances over his shoulder at the ragged Muties and Exiles and the spot where the Woman disappeared.

DAG
(to Flyball)
A cursed life and a cursed death...we must not fail.

NEW ANGLE

Dredd steps forward, motions the Mutie Delegates off the armored vehicle. They comply. As they file past the Judges, they're individually searched. Dag waddles forward.

DAG
This is an outrage -- we're an official Peace Delegation.

DREDD
And I'm officially in charge of your security.

Dag looks at Dredd's name tag.

DAG
I've heard of you.

DREDD
I'm glad.

DAG
I've brought an old friend of yours...
(turns)
Dr. Wu...

Dr. Wu comes up from the rear leading a grinning Mean-Machine by the hand. At the appearance of Mean-Machine, all the other JUDGES go for their guns.

DAG
Wait --!

DR. WU
No need for weapons.
(indicates dial)
Mean-Machine is a real angel now.

Dredd looks skeptically at the new dial in Mean's forehead.

DREDD
He's even uglier smiling.

DAG
We wanted you to see what happens when you give peace a chance.

DREDD
I wondered how you were getting the food convoys through Angel territory.

DR. WU
Mean is happy to make his contribution to brotherhood and peace...

MEAN-MACHINE
I'm a new machine, Judge Dredd.

DREDD
Be careful you don't strip your gears...
(pats his gun)
...because I've still got the Kill Button.
(to Dag)
Leave your Trojan Horse out here, we've got transport for you inside the gate.

As the rest of the Delegation files past, Earplug brings up the rear. She stops in front of Dredd.

EARPLUG
Send any children to the Cursed Earth recently?

DREDD
I just enforce the law -- I don't make it.

EARPLUG
I heard you were the law.

Dredd doesn't deny this. Earplug gives him a grim smile as she walks past, diplomatic passport in hand.

EXT./INT. WALL - SECURITY COMPOUND, INNER GATE - DAY

All the JUDGES but Dredd have their LAWMASTERS surrounding a large unmarked TRANSBUS with dark one-way windows and armour plate. The Muties climb nervously aboard the bus.

Dredd sees them all aboard, turns to the other Judges.

DREDD
At the first sign of trouble, shoot to kill.

He gets on the Bus, and the whole convoy moves through the Inner Gate into a TUNNEL.

INT. MOVING TRANSBUS - DAY

The Mutie Delegates nearly fill the small bus, staring anxiously at one another and out the tinted windows at the hard walls of the tunnel flying past. Dredd stands at the head of the bus.

FLYBALL
Why are they taking us underground?

EARPLUG
Getting the ten-cent tour...

FLYBALL
(to Dag)
They're sneaking us in the back door.

DAG
(to Dredd)
I thought our itinerary included a tour of the city this afternoon --

DREDD
It's been postponed.

DAG
By whose authority?

DREDD
Mine. I'm in charge of security for this Mission. I think it's better for you...people to settle into your quarters, and if there are no incidents, perhaps tomorrow --

EARPLUG
What's the matter, afraid for the Norms to see us?

DREDD
Not all the Citizens of Mega-City are pleased about your visit. While you're here you're in my care. I want you to stay together at all times -- no solo side trips -- and I want you to remember that I'm in charge. If I say jump, I want to see you in the air...those of you with legs anyway.

An insulted murmur rises from the bus. Dredd commands their attention.

DREDD
No offense intended -- just wanted to be sure I had your attention...

Dag shakes his head, hanging between two hand-hold straps in the aisle.

TRADER DAG
Judge Dredd, we know what it's like to live in a land without law. We respect the law. You don't have to insult us to get our attention.

DREDD
Good.

INT. VEHICLE PARK - RICARDO MONTALBAN BLOCK - DAY

The TransBus, flanked by Judges, drives past a rank of Jetcars and parks beside a SLIDEWALK leading up to the ENTRANCE PLAZA. Muties offload, herded onto the slidewalk by Dredd and the heavy security.

INT. ENTRANCE PLAZA - MONTALBAN BLOCK - DAY

The party halts as Dredd steps up to the RECEPTIONIST sitting in front of a giant Block-Map mural.

DREDD
Are the VIP quarters ready?

RECEPTIONIST
Welcome to Ricardo Montalban Block, Judge Dredd. And honored guests...

(nods to Muties)
We want to make your stay here as pleaant as possible...
(to Dredd)
...but there's a small problem.

DREDD
How small?

RECEPTIONIST
The quarters aren't quite ready.

INT. VIP (DETENTION) WING - 107TH FLOOR - DAY

where Block maintenance/security WORKERS are busily taking down a sign that reads "Detention Wing, Ricardo Montalban Block" and replacing it with one that reads "VIP Suites, Ricardo Montalban Block."

ENTRANCE PLAZA - AS BEFORE

DREDD
What am I supposed to do wi --

RECEPTIONIST
(to Muties)
The Montalban Mall is one of the finest in the City, perhaps a short shopping tour is in order --

The Muties chatter excitedly -- it's the best news they've had all day.

MUTIE MERCHANT
We can use our City Creds...

RECEPTIONIST
(to Dredd)
We've also got the finest Block Security. In the mall on full alert --

DREDD
(hesitates)
I don't know --

The agitated Delegates edge toward the MALL ENTRANCE in b.g., anxious to start shopping. Before Dredd can render a decision, the two pro-Mutie CHIEF JUDGES, 1 and 2, enter smiling at the Muties.

CHIEF JUDGE 1
What's the problem here, Dredd?

RECEPTIONIST
Just a small delay, a minor snafu, in the living arrangements...with the maintenance people...it'll be corrected in a few minutes -- and I thought the delegation --

CHIEF 2
Settle down, Citizen. These things happen.

CHIEF JUDGE 1
Perhaps we can take them shopping...

RECEPTIONIST
Wonderful, wonderful idea, Chief Judge. We have everything ready.

Dredd looks disgusted.

CHIEF JUDGE 2
Well, then, what are we waiting for?
(to Dag)
Welcome, welcome, greetings and peace, I think you'll find the Mall a fine example of the rebuilding we had to do after the Apocalypse Wars...

And they're off. Dredd picks up the rear, scowling, and Earplug passes by again.

EARPLUG
Don't you like to go shopping?

DREDD
Judges don't shop.

INT. "FANTASY ISLAND" SHOPPING MALL - DAY

The Mutie Delegation enters dumbstruck at the glittering, cavernous maze of the MALL. The multi-levelled shopping nexus covers several square kilometers; behind emerald-cut display windows, everything imaginable is for sale.

The Muties look like they're in church, standing in a stunned group -- then they surge forward to shop. Mean Machine takes off on his own toward a Toy Shop, chased by Dr. Wu.

The noise in the mall rings like a football stadium. HUNDREDS of CONSUMERS throng the levels and ramps, shopping as if it were a job. As the Muties start toward the SHOPS, the PEOPLE nearest them fall suddenly silent -- a SILENCE which spreads throughout the Mall as more and more faces stare blankly.

ANGLE - DREDD

Dredd waves at his MEN to keep the Muties in a single group. Judges manage to keep them in three smaller groups heading for different stores.

Dredd quickly surveys the terrain. He focuses on one of the MOVING SIDEWALKS on the other side of the Mall. The corners of his mouth turn down.

ANGLE - MOVING SLIDEWALK

A young TAP GANG (mugger/pickpockets) is working the slidewalk. Lookouts stand watch, while DUNKS stun their VICTIMS with electro-prods and lift their purses. It's a well-coordinated criminal effort.

MOVING WITH DREDD

through the crowd, alone, toward the Tap Gang.

ANGLE - SLIDEWALK

as one of the Dunks starts toward a WOMAN with his electro-prod, she pulls out a PIECE and snaps a shot at him. She misses him, but hits another WOMAN's HUSBAND up the slidewalk. The rest of the Tap Gang scatters at the sound of the SHOT. As they flee conspicuously, OTHER CITIZENS draw ILLEGAL WEAPONS to fire at the miscreants. The Gang pulls its weapons and a full-scale GUN BATTLE breaks out.

NEW ANGLE - DREDD

He draws his Lawgiver and guns down the LEADER of the Tap Gang across the crowded floor.

ANGLE

TWO MORE Tap Gangers spot Dredd and immediately turn their FIRE toward him. MORE CITIZENS are knocked off in the cross-fire.

ANGLE - DREDD

as Dredd kneels and takes out the two Tap Gang gunners with two well-placed shots.

OTHER SIDE OF MALL

Muties and Citizens rush to the balustrade to rubberneck.

Mean-Machine grins copacetically at the melee, while clutching a Teddy Bear.

A MEMBER of the Mutie Trade Delegation takes a stray round right up his snout. It blows the ears off the back of his head.

Dag and Earplug reel back in horror as their colleague is blown away.

Everyone ducks but the other Judges, who try to draw a bead on the Tap Gang, but are blocked by CITIZENS in the line of fire.

At the sight of blood, Mean Machine becomes agitated, begins to quiver with excitement. He pulls an arm off the Teddy Bear.

Dr. Wu quickly turns the dial on Mean's forehead from "mellow" to "apathetic." His face instantly brightens with an idiot smile.

BACK TO SLIDEWALK BATTLE

The few remaining members of the Tap Gang realize the futility of their resistance and one-by-one begin to surrender -- except for one LAST ONE who charges Dredd from behind with his electro-prod.

ANGLE - EARPLUG

Standing, she spots Dredd's attacker.

EARPLUG
Behind you, Dredd!

DREDD - AS BEFORE

Dredd spins in time to sweep the prod away with his left hand and collar the Perp with his right.

PUNK DUNK
Eat grud, Dredd.

He takes a swing at Dredd who dodges it easily, then smashes his helmet into the Dunk's face.

DREDD
Eat law, punk.

Dredd drops him into a puddle on the floor.

NEW ANGLE

As the dust settles, the extent of the carnage becomes clear. Citizens, Muties, Judges all look around in dismay. Dredd flashes a look across at Earplug -- who's looking the other way, pretending she didn't say anything. Block SECURITY MEN detain CITIZENS with illegal weapons, in b.g.

CITIZEN
Arrest? For teaching that criminal a lesson in citizenship? He got just what he needed -- what they all need!

JUDGE
Tell it to the shrink -- and hand over that illegal weapon --

Mean Machine is oblivious to all the turmoil -- as he weeps over his dismembered Teddy Bear.

The Receptionist comes flying into the disaster area, backed up by the famous Mall Security. He stops and looks around in shock.

RECEPTIONIST
Uh...the quarters are ready.

DREDD
About time.

The other Judges begin to herd the stunned Muties back toward the Entrance Plaza. Earplug sneaks a look over her shoulder at Dredd, then moves up beside Dag and the concerned Delegates.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. VIP SUITES - ENTRANCE HALL - DAY

As Block Security and Judges escort the Delegates to their rooms off the drab HALLWAY where they meet CHIEF JUDGES 1 & 2.

CHIEF JUDGE 1
I can't understand it -- we haven't had gunfire in this Mall since last year. I'm so terribly sorry about the disturbance...

TRADER DAG
(quivering with rage)
Disturbance? One of our premier trade delegates is lying there dead.

CHIEF JUDGE 2
I'm afraid there's still a great deal of civil unrest.

TRADER DAG
I'd heard stories about your "civilized" way of life.

Dredd appears behind Trader Dag.

TRADER DAG
...but you promised me a guarantee of safety.

DREDD
Shopping is a dangerous sport.

CHIEF JUDGE 1
Must you be so flippant?

DREDD
Sorry, sir, it's something I caught from Judge Anderson.

CHIEF JUDGE 2
Rest assured you will be safe here. I know you must be tired. There'll be a reception in the Council chambers after your Tour of the city tomorrow --

DREDD
Excuse me, sir, but as head of security, I'm cancelling the tour right now.

CHIEF JUDGE 1
I'll have to overrule you on that, Dredd.

Dredd looks concerned.

DREDD
(to Dag)
I'm sorry about your friend.

TRADER DAG
I'm sure you did your best.

The Delegates file down the hall and into the rooms. Dr. Wu hustles Mean Machine into their room. The Judges gather outside the entrance and one of them lowers a barred SECURITY GATE, which slams against the floor. Mutie heads pop out of doorways as the Judges leave.

EXT. CURSED EARTH - LITHUANIUM MINE - DAY

The futuristic MINING OPERATION looks like a gravel pit except for its soft, radioactive glow. WORKERS in radiation suits operate boaring and crushing MACHINES connected to conveyors carrying the crushed ore to processing machines.

The mine is surrounded by a CHAIN-LINK FENCE patrolled by SECURITY MEN also wearing radiation suits.

EXT. ROCKY OUTCROP - PA ANGEL

Pa Angel is sitting on his bike, holding a small RADIO-CONTROL UNIT. In his makeshift radiation suit, he resembles an evil armadillo.

ANGLE -POV

A toy-size ATV (All-Terrain-Vehicle) struggles over the blasted landscape near the chain-link fence. A security man hears the whine of the little engine, and turns. He just has time to register surprise before the ATV EXPLODES.

The Guard and a section of fence disappear in the blast.

NEW ANGLE - ANGELS

as they ROAR out of the mouth of an arroyo, wearing even rattier radiation suits. They speed over the rough terrain toward the gap in the fence.

ANGLE

The GANG splits as they enter the fence, half to the right, half to the left, and as they circle the perimeter, they quickly dispense with the security men, then turn to the frightened WORKERS HUDDLED behind machinery on the floor of the mine.

The Angel Gang's BIKES raise boiling clouds of dust as they drop over the rim of the pit.

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - JUDGE FARGO'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Judge Fargo leads Dredd through his chambers, complaining in a high, excited voice.

JUDGE FARGO
-- and another thing, after <u>all</u> those casualities at Charles Darwin Block...some of the other Chief Judges wanted to take you off this Mutie detail, but I had confidence in you -- and look what happened.

DREDD
It wasn't my idea to let them go shopping. And I'm against this City Tour tomorrow.

JUDGE FARGO
(confidentially)
There are certain political considerations that you're not aware of --

DREDD
I thought the law was founded to avoid political considerations.

JUDGE FARGO
You serve the law well, Judge Dredd, but I have to deal with the actualities of the situation. If Mega-City One suffers more food shortages, not even the law can save us.

DREDD
I remember when you felt differently.

JUDGE FARGO
When you're on the streets, you see things one way. It's you against the Perps, but I've got the safety of eight hundred million souls to look out for... That's why this peace delegation is so important. They must be safe inside the walls of our city.

DREDD
Then I have to do it my way.

JUDGE FARGO
Do what you have to, Judge Dredd, but treat them with respect.

DREDD
Yes, sir.

INT. DAG'S QUARTERS - VIP SUITES - NIGHT

Earplug is putting on the finishing touches installing Dag's special sling-bed in the room, while he stands staring out the window at the Dolly Parton block across the way.

ANGLE -POV

Almost all of the block windows are lighted except for a bank directly across from Dag's room.

THE ROOM - AS BEFORE

He seems distracted as Earplug finishes arranging the bed.

TRADER DAG
Look at all those people, safe and secure...

EARPLUG
Except from each other. And if I were you, I'd get away from the window. Ever hear of Block Wars?

TRADER DAG
There won't be peace in the city until there's peace in the Cursed Earth -- and they know that.

EARPLUG
People who talk about peace are never really interested in it... come on, Dag, your antennaes are starting to droop. Time to climb in the sleep sack before you start having secretions.

TRADER DAG
Just a few minutes more -- I can't help admiring their civilization. I've waited so long --

ANGLE - DAG

admiring the glitter of the City. A soft GREEN FOG seems to pulsate briefly on the window. Dag suddenly clutches his forehead, reels back a little. The light goes away. Dag shakes his head and turns to Earplug, acquiescent.

TRADER DAG
Maybe I could stand a little slug-nap...

Earplug smiles, holds up Dag's bedcovers like a matador inviting the bull to the cape.

TRADER DAG (CONT.)
You'll be here for the meeting later?

EARPLUG
(fakes a yawn)
I'm a little bush-baby myself, pops. You'll feel a lot better after you get some rest.

As she helps Dag into bed, she hides an excited smile.

EXT. WALL - NIGHT

The MUTIE ENCAMPMENT has grown, a CLOUD of DUST and SMOKE so thick the SEARCHLIGHTS can't penetrate it rises over the ragged Refugees huddled in shanties.

At the dark center there seems to be a disturbance -- VAGUE FIGURES moving through the dust -- and the SOUNDS of gunfire, cries of pain and MUTIES FLEEING.

ANGLE - SENTRY POST - WALL

Dredd stands next to a Sentry Judge who mans a las-cannon and searchlight.

SENTRY JUDGE
They've been arriving in small groups all day. A big bunch came in after dark...

DREDD
Sounds like they're fighting among themselves.

SENTRY JUDGE
(aiming las-cannon)
Want me to calm 'em down?

DREDD
As long as they're outside the dead line, keep your finger off that trigger.

SENTRY JUDGE
(pulls back fast)
Sorry, Judge Dredd.

DREDD
Be sure to keep all the other posts alert -- this could be a diversion. They tried something like this in the first round of the Mutie Wars...

SENTRY JUDGE
That was the time they nearly breached the wall --

DREDD
900,000 casualties.

SENTRY JUDGE
Not counting the Muties...

Dredd nods grimly.

EXT. MUTIE CAMP - NIGHT

Inside a rough SHELTER, a MUTIE FAMILY is dining on insects when the side of the shelter is DEMOLISHED right in front of them by the flashing blades of an EARTH BORE. Then they too disappear in a spray of blood and insects.

Revealed outside are the ANGEL GANG, disguised in hooded robes, with Pa at the controls of the stolen mining machine. As Junior and Link clear the area violently, Pa Angel aims the machine at the base of a heap of large boulders.

Other GANG MEMBERS rise out of the darkness and help erect a large, black TENT over the earth bore, while Link and Junior lead a small GROUP with cymbals and flutes chanting noisily to camoflage the deep grinding of the borer machine as it begins tunneling into the Earth, toward the Wall.

GUARD TOWER - AS BEFORE

As the music rises in the dusty air, Dredd stares intently toward the Refugee Camp.

SENTRY JUDGE
What's that?

DREDD
I don't know but I don't like it. I think I'll go check on my Muties.

SENTRY JUDGE
(nervous)
You don't think there'll be another Mutie War, do you, Judge?

DREDD
As long as there's a Wall, people are gonna try to get on the other side. Keep your eyes open.

EXT. MEGA-CITY - HIGHWAY TO DOWNTOWN BLOCKS - NIGHT

Dredd on his speeding Lawmaster, heading toward Ricardo Montalban Block.

INT. VIP SUITES HALLWAY - NIGHT

A fat, pinheaded Mutie Delegate slips out of his room, carefully checking the hallway, then waddles nervously up the hall to Dag's door. He goes in.

INT. DAG'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

As Pinhead Mutie enters, a tall, angular Delegate is pleading with Dag

ANGULAR DELEGATE
-- how many more of us have to die before you see that there's no real prospect for peace --

TRADE DELEGATE
These Norms hate us --

FLYBALL
Garpon knew the risks when he came here -- and would have been happy to spend the additional Creds he would have made on these new trade routes --

PINHEAD
Tell that to Garpon's litter.

TRADE DELEGATE
Muties who lie down with norms wake up with empty pockets--

FLYBALL
That was before the last food riots in Mega-City.

DAG
Now they need us...there's a chance for a real exchange. How else can you hope to rebuild the world -- for all the people.

INT. EARPLUG'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

With an ear half-cocked to the murmurs next door, she puts the finishing touches on her makeup. She's wearing a shimmering, grey body suit. She takes a small blob from one of her makeup containers and walks over to the INFRA-RED PERSONNEL DETECTOR above the bathroom door. She checks the angle between the detector and the Sleep-Cube bed, then smears a streak of makeup goo across the detector screen.

She turns out the lights in the room, looks over and SEES the goo glowing on the screen above the bathroom door. CAMERA FOLLOWS her into the BATHROOM. Where she quickly removes the Air Conditioning grate and slithers into the narrow space.

INT. AIR-CONDITIONING SHAFT -- HIGH ANGLE

She's in a vertical shaft suspended by her feet and shoulders, climbing slowly upward. Below her, the shaft stretches dozens of stories downward.

EXT. RICARDO MONTALBAN BLOCK - NIGHT

Dredd arrives at the Block, drives into the Vehicle Park.

INT. ENTRANCE PLAZA - NIGHT

Dredd strides in, crosses to the ANTI-GRAV TUBES marked "Security Personnel Only," where a group of BLOCK SECURITY MEN are gathered. They acknowledge Dredd's presence by letting him to the head of the line.

DREDD
(to Security)
Any trouble?

SECURITY MAN
We're on top of it, Judge Dredd, all two-hundred forty storeys of it.

DREDD
You clowns couldn't guard two-hundred forty storeys of grud.

He steps into the tube and swiftly ascends O.S.

SECURITY MAN
What a Judge!

BACK CORRIDOR - MONTALBAN MALL - NIGHT

Earplug drops from the ceiling vent, landing like a cat. She checks the area, then walks away casually.

INT. MALL - SLIDEWALK NEXUS

As Earplug joins festively dressed CITIZENS taking the slidewalk ramps down to the NIGHTCLUB LEVEL, Judge Dredd can be seen ascending in the Anti-Grav tube in b.g.

ANGLE - EARPLUG

Earplug SEES Dredd across the mall and FREEZES. She touches her forehead, then steps behind the nearest finger-snapping Citizens.

ANGLE - DREDD

Although Dredd's eyes bracket the Mall, he misses Earplug, and continues his steady ascent toward the upper reaches of the vast Block.

NIGHTCLUB LEVEL - MALL

Earplug falls in with a small river of PEOPLE flowing toward Mega-City's hottest PUNK ROCK CLUB, The MegaMouth. She follows the crowd up the glittering red tongue ramp toward the Mick Jagger-like maw of the mouth-shaped ENTRANCE. WILD MUSIC surges from between the lips. Earplug boogies up the stairs and into the mouth.

INT. VIP SUITES - ENTRANCEWAY - NIGHT

Judge Dredd steps up to the Sentry Judge, who's in front of the INFRA-RED SECURITY MONITOR -- a map of the rooms showing the occupants as blobs of heat pulsating on the wall screen.

DREDD
How's it going?

SENTRY JUDGE
(turns to screen)
Except for these two, they all seem to be in the Bananaslug's room.

Dredd gives him a hard look.

DREDD
Who are these two?

SENTRY JUDGE
That's Mean Machine -- he's in Neuro-Detention.

DREDD
That's the first good news I've had all day.

SENTRY JUDGE
And the other one's the little girl. She hasn't left her room for an hour or so.

Dredd hits the security panel and the gate opens.

DREDD
Time to tuck in the rest of them.

He walks into the HALLWAY.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dredd stops in front of Dag's door and listens to the heated murmurs beyond -- then knocks heavily on the door. The sudden silence inside is palpable. After a beat, the door opens slowly. Dredd looks down and sees Flyball and steps uninvited into the room.

FLYBALL
(to Dredd's back)
Come right in.

Dredd looks around the room at the silent Muties.

DREDD
Is there a problem?

DAG
We were just discussing the sudden demise...of our friend Garpon. Some of the delegates were expressing concern about our safety.

DREDD
I'm sorry about your friend, but I can't keep you safe if you're going to behave like tourists.

FLYBALL
Promises were made, and security was one of them.

DAG
(diplomatically)
You wouldn't want us to think that Mega-City One was as dangerous as the Cursed Earth.

DREDD
I guarantee you'll be perfectly safe tomorrow.
(smiles ironic)
I hate to break this up, but six Muties in a room together is grounds for a Block War in this sector.

The Muties murmur nervously, get up and start to file out.

DAG
Of course, we understand how complex -- and dangerous -- life is here...

FLYBALL
...and the difficult task you Judges face.

INT. MEGAMOUTH ROCK CLUB - MALL - NIGHT

Earplug is dancing like a maniac with TWO GUYS at once, and they look like they're about to drop. Another GROUP of Punky Guys watch from the sidelines with open-mouthed admiration.

INT. VIP SUITES - ENTRANCE HALL - NIGHT

TIGHT on the INFRA-RED WALL MONITOR -- WE SEE from the heat signals that the Muties are back in their room, snuggly abed. PULL BACK to Dredd studying the map. He pushes the LifeForce scanner switch. All of the figures except Earplug's turn red and pulsate in heart-like rhythm -- hers stays yellow and unmoving.

SENTRY JUDGE
That's the girl's room.

DREDD
Hmm...no life force. Either she just died or something's funny here. Open the gate.

INT. EARPLUG'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dredd lets himself and turns on the light. Surveys the empty room, notices the phosphorescent glow of Earplug's makeup on the room-scan. He steps into the bathroom.

ANGLE - BATHROOM

She's not there either -- Dredd's eye goes to the unhinged air conditionining grate. He flips on his com unit.

DREDD
This is Dredd to all units. Override. We've got a loose Mutie. Seal off the block, but don't alarm the citizens --

INT. MALL - MEGAMOUTH ENTRANCE - 20 MINUTES LATER

Judge Morales, still sporting his bandito moustache, has a BLOCK SECURITY GUARD by the elbow, holding him out to Dredd like a perp.

JUDGE MORALES
Here's the Rocket Scientist who let her walk right past him.

BLOCK SECURITY MAN
But, Judge Dredd, she looks just like a norm.

DREDD
And she looks just like her picture, too. Do you know the punishment for dereliction of duty?

BLOCK SECURITY MAN
Please, Judge, the place is mobbed tonight.

DREDD
There's an Iso-Cube with your name on it, buddy.

Judge Morales hands the Security Man off to another JUDGE, and turns to Dredd.

JUDGE MORALES
She's at a table in the back, she just sat down. Whew. That girl could boogie your britches off.

DREDD
What are you talking about?

JUDGE MORALES
She's already worn a half dozen guys out. Red-hot and radio-active!

DREDD
How did you ever get to be a Judge, Morales?

JUDGE MORALES
Hey, I was Number One in my class at the Academy.

DREDD
Before or after you grew that grud-strainer on your face?

Dredd shakes his head and walks into the club.

INT. CLUB - ANGLE - TABLE

Earplug is grinning from ear to ear, her color is high, basking in the attention of two lovelorn SWEAT-SOAKED JUVES.

EARPLUG
(to Juves)
...are you guys sure you're okay?

Juve 1, panting, points toward TWO MORE GUYS collapsed in a corner.

JUVE 1
We did better than those guys --

The BAND starts up again. Earplug rocks in her chair.

JUVE 2
Yeah, just give us a second --

EARPLUG
(standing)
Maybe you've got time to rest, but I don't. Thanks for the dance.

Juve 2 lifts his head wearily to say goodbye. His eyes widen. Earplug gives him a casual wave, then whirls toward the dance floor and walks right into Dredd's chest.

DREDD
Time to come along, Miss.

The two Juves stand up to protest.

JUVE 1
Aw, come on, Judge, she didn't do nothing.

JUVE 2
We were just dancing.

DREDD
You can dance down to the nearest sub-station.

He snaps an electro-cuff on each of the Juves. A small crowd gathers around them.

DREDD (CONT.)
You're lucky not to be banished.

JUVES
For what?! Huh?

DREDD
Consorting with a Mutie.

The Juves reel back in horror. Earplug rolls her eyes and touches her forehead. The crowd pulls back.

JUVE 1
(to Earplug)
You don't look like a Mutie.

EARPLUG
You norms all look alike to me, too.
(to Dredd)
One last boogie before you take me away...?

DREDD
I'll escort you back to your quarters.

Earplug sighs, turns to the electro-cuffed Juves.

EARPLUG
Thanks for the memories, guys.

Dredd takes her arm gently and leads her across the dance floor.

EARPLUG
(to Dredd)
You're not really gonna throw those poor kids in the Juve Cubes, are you?

DREDD
Not if their chips are clean. They'll get a lesson in respect for the law.

The crowd gives them plenty of room as they head toward the exit. Some ANTI-MUTIE murmurs from the more paranoid rockers. From the back of the crowd, a WILD MAN screams in rage and storms through the crowd toward Earplug.

Dredd goes for his Lawgiver, but before he draws, Earplug touches her head, squints her eyes, and the Wild Man drops to his knees. Stunned, he clasps his hands to his ears and howls with pain.

DREDD
What was that?

EARPLUG
Something I picked up in the Cursed Earth.

The CAMERA FOLLOWS them out of the mouth, down the tongue back into the Mall. Judge Morales is waiting outside. He gives Earplug a once-over, looks at Dredd's hand on her arm, and smiles.

JUDGE MORALES
(to Dredd)
For a guy who doesn't date, you sure have all the fun.

Earplug smiles back.

DREDD
Call the Med-Techs, we've got a Citizen down inside. When he wakes up, book him for unprovoked assault.

CAMERA FOLLOWS as Dredd pulls Earplug on down the Mallway.

EARPLUG
No need to arrest him...he'll be home with a headache for six months.

DREDD
I wondered what you were doing here. You're Dag's bodyguard, aren't you?

She nods.

DREDD
What did you do to that guy?

She smiles, touches her forehead and squints. Dredd lifts his ears, grimaces, then shrugs it off.

EARPLUG
Didn't feel anything?

DREDD
I thought I heard some music...

Earplug, touches her forehead and squints, harder this time. Dredd jerks to a standstill, gripping his helmet and gritting his teeth. Earplug grins. Dredd shakes it off, turns to her.

DREDD
Some kind of Sonic Projection -- it sounded like sixteen of the worst Heavy Metal bands I've ever heard.

EARPLUG
Most men would be weeping by now.

DREDD
I'm a Judge...

EARPLUG
I gave the guy inside another hundred db's. Want to try it?

DREDD
(smiles)
No thanks. I never cared much for rock and roll.

EARPLUG
I already know that.

DREDD
Just how dangerous are you?

EARPLUG
Wouldn't you like to know?

INT. MEAN MACHINE'S ROOM - VIP SUITES - NIGHT

Mean-Machine sleeps peacefully in the electronic bonds of Neuro-Detention.

A pair of HANDS wielded by an unseen person enters FRAME and move toward the dial in Mean's forehead.

One finger flicks the arrow and it spins around on the dial. As the dial spins, his features contort in a series of chimpanzee grimaces, trying to replicate the different mood settings. But he does not wake up...

EXT. VEHICLE PARK, MONTALBAN BLOCK - DAY

Up a ramp from the underground Vehicle Park comes the same BUS that met the Muties at the Wall. It's travelling at a very high rate of speed. There've been some modifications -- it bristles with armaments and surveillance equipment. Twice as many JUDGES form a moving barricade. If anything, the windows seem darker.

INT. BUS - DAY

Jostled around, the Delegates catch only glimpses of the fleeting landscape through the one-way bullertproof glass.

Swinging in his sling-chair, Dag looks seasick and pissed-off.

TRADER DAG
You call this a tour, Judge Dredd?

Dredd stands, his legs apart, rock steady at the front of the bus.

DREDD
A safe one.

Earplug is slouched comfortably at the rear of the bus. She yawns and stretches her sore dancing muscles. Leans over to massage Dag's sloping shoulders. Dag sighs, contented.

EARPLUG
Relax, Sluggo, one sunset across the Cursed Earth is worth twenty trips around this grimy drokk-off town...

Dredd looks at them sternly, as if they're engaging in cross-species sex.

EXT. JETWAY OVERPASS - CITY - DAY

SIRENS wailing and LIGHTS flashing, the Judges push through TRAFFIC, the BUS in tow, its engine straining to keep up.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MUTIE CAMP - OUTSIDE WALL - DUSK

A ragged group of GOOD REFUGEES are scavenging in the remains of the Angel camp. Only the hulk of the Earth Bore remains parked in front of a large tunnel that slopes under a ridge of boulders toward the Wall. The Muties bring large, chipped pieces of the bore blade out of the hole, studying the fragments like prehistoric tools.

INT. TUNNEL - UNDER WALL

CAMERA PANS UP more fragments of the blade, deep inside the tunnel, to reveal a shiny, gray plasteel barrier blocking the end of the tunnel. The Angels are gathered at the barrier. Junior rubs his hand over it.

JUNIOR ANGEL
...ate that bore blade right up.

LINK ANGEL
What do we do, Pa?

Pa chuckles his evil chuckle.

PA ANGEL
We wait.

JUNIOR ANGEL
Boy, I sure hope this is the right place.

Pa reaches over and cuffs him, bouncing him off the tunnel wall.

PA ANGEL
It's okay to be stupid, but don't be dumb.

EXT. MONTALBAN BLOCK - CITYSCAPE - NIGHT

The Block is all lit up, with searchlights probing the air.

INT. BLOCK RECREATION PARK - ARTIFICIAL BEACH - NIGHT

It looks like a bright Southern California beach at high noon. PEOPLE in bathing suits lie on the sand while SURFERS ride the rolling waves into shore.

On closer inspection, the holographic background shimmers like the illusion it is, and the hydraulic wave machine is revealed in the background. A totally artificial Pacific paradise.

Above the beach, on a glass-enclosed PAVILLION, well-dressed Muties and Judges mingle at the reception.

INT. PAVILLION - RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

ANGLE toward the window overlooking the Beach. The Engineer Mutie is chatting with a leading Mega-City environmental ARCHITECT.

ARCHITECT
...four hundred twenty thousand kilotons of de-radiated sand...

MUTIE ENGINEER
...amazing...

CAMERA PANS WIDE into a panorama of the ROOM. Mega-City's leading BUSINESS LEADERS, MEDIA PEOPLE, and JUDGES host this large RECEPTION for the Muties, most of whom are clustered around the BUFFET TABLE. Most of the RULING ELITE are here -- badly overdressed -- and the TALK is of creds, commerce, and the benefits of peace to the business community.

A VIDCASTER tries to interview Pinhead Mutie...he shoulders her aside, picks up a plate of Deviled Eggs and moves to a corner in the room.

Dredd and other on-duty Judges are spaced throughout the room.

In another corner, Dr. Wu proudly exhibits an affable Mean-Machine, who holds out a tray of cocktail franks to a group of DOCTORS. AD-LIB amazement. Nearby, Flyball is talking to a pair of technocrats.

Judge Fargo, Chief Judge 2, Dag, Earplug, and the Mutie Trade Delegate stand in a loose circle, discussing the future of the world. The Vidcaster NewsTeam moves in on the group, sniffing for quotes.

VIDCASTER
Can you give us a preview of your speech tomorrow, Trader Dag?

FLYBALL
(joining the group)
I'll have copies for the media tomorrow morning...

VIDCASTER
What do you think the possi-bilities for peace are?

TRADER DAG
If Mega-City One will negotiate in good faith, even from its position of power...

CAMERA DRIFTS OFF with Flyball as he ambles back toward Dr. Wu and his group.

TRADER DAG (V.O.)
...and Chief Judge Fargo has given us reasons to be hopeful. The true test of the civilized mind is the ability to build a world for all people, the strong and the weak...

ANGLE - FLYBALL AND MEAN-MACHINE

Flyball comes up behind Mean-Machine, quietly, nudges him in the calf with his toe. Mean-Machine turns around, smiling be-nignly down at the tiny fellow.

MEAN-MACHINE
Oh, hi.

FLYBALL
(crooking his finger)
Could I have a canape, Mean?

MEAN-MACHINE
It'll be my pleasure.

When Mean-Machine bends over to present the tray, Flyball whips out a small SCREWDRIVER. Unobserved, he POPS the DIAL off Mean's forehead, revealing ANOTHER DIAL underneath.

INSERT - NEW DIAL

It's Mean-Machine's original dial with its four settings: "surly," "mean," "vicious," and "brutal." The arrow is resting in the second position.

FLYBALL & MEAN - AS BEFORE

A look of absolute joy fills Mean's ugly face his true character comes rushing out. He focuses on Flyball.

FLYBALL
Get Dredd.

MEAN-MACHINE
Huh?

FLYBALL
(pointing)
Judge Dredd -- your pa says go get him!

Mean snarls -- not a pretty sight. Flyball ducks out toward the buffet. A HAND taps Mean on the back.

DELEGATE
Let's have some more of those franks --

WIDER ANGLE

Mean stands up and turns into the group. No one has noticed that he's now a Biker from Hell.

The Delegate who wanted more franks nudges Mean with his elbow.

MEAN-MACHINE
(growls)
You got the Mean Machine on Two!

Just as the Delegate notices who he's dealing with, he gets his franks, the whole tray smashed into his face.

Dr. Wu squeals in amazement as the group reacts, drawing Mean's attention. Their stares lock. Mean grins horribly. He moves his Dial up to Three ("vicious").

MEAN-MACHINE
You. Wu! You--made--me--nice!

Mean grabs the front of Dr. Wu's robe with his human left hand, and hoists him into the air.

MEAN-MACHINE
I'm goin' up to Three on you!

With his bionic claw, he takes Wu's nose between his pincers. Wu SCREAMS as Mean tears his nose off -- then HURLS him into the picture window overlooking the artificial BEACH.

INT. BEACH - PAVILLION WINDOW

Dr. Wu comes through the window as if shot from a cannon, catapulted across the beach toward the waves, where he takes out a startled SURFER.

INT. PAVILLION - RECEPTION - NIGHT

Everyone REACTS to the SCREAM and the CRASH, surging toward the windows to see what happened. The tightly-packed crowd inhibits the movement of the Judges. Mean-Machine spins to confront the crowd. The nearest JUDGE reaches for his Lawgiver. Mean charges him headfirst. The Judge's first round bounces right off Mean's armored skullcap; it ricochets toward the buffet and blows off the top of Pinhead Mutie's head. Mean buries his head into the Judge's midriff with such force that it topples a cordon of PEOPLE behind him. PANIC increases.

When Pinhead hits the floor, we SEE Flyball ducking under the Buffet Table.

DREDD
No shooting!!

Mean-Machine HEARS Dredd's VOICE and begins bashing his way through the crowd toward it.

Dag, Earplug and the others stand slightly apart, startled.

JUDGE FARGO
What in the name of drokk is going on?

TRADER DAG
I don't understand --

Chief Judge 2 points his gun at Dag.

CHIEF JUDGE 2
You treacherous freak --

Earplug zaps him so hard his ears start to smoke, then he collapses. She turns toward Fargo --

TRADER DAC
(to Earplug)
No!

ANGLE - DREDD

He struggles through the crowd, trying not to hurt anybody.

ANGLE - MEAN

Blood-spattered and dripping gore, the Mean Machine sweeps down the last layer of the CROWD between him and Dredd.

MIDDLE OF THE ROOM

As Mean and Dredd face off in the middle of the Pavillion, people scramble out of their way.

DREDD
Good to see the real you again, Mean.

MEAN-MACHINE
For you, Dredd, I'm going all the way up to four.

DREDD
I hope your head doesn't blow off.

MEAN-MACHINE
Here it comes, Bozo!

He charges Dredd head-first. Dredd braces himself -- but Mean buries his head in Dredd's stomach. Snorting like a bull, he drives Dredd in one great charge through the Buffet, scattering people, Muties and *Hors D'Oeuvres*, and into the wall behind them.

Flyball peeks out from underneath the ruined Buffet. He scuttles out a SERVICE DOOR.

INT. BEACH - PAVILLION WALL

Dredd and Mean-Machine crash through the wall and thud heavily on the Beach. They roll across the sand, flailing at each other, knocking into SUN BATHERS.

ANGLE - FIGHT

In their path, some KIDS are constructing a GIANT SAND CASTLE. It disappears in a sandy explosion in the fury of their fight.

They separate briefly, face off at the water line. The sky blue wall projection shimmers behind them. Mean lowers his hand to charge again, like a crazed battering ram.

He CHARGES Dredd -- who steps aside like a Matador and watches as Mean lurches past, bowling over BEACH PEOPLE. He turns around, faces Dredd over a pile of crumpled people -- raps his knuckles on his armored head.

MEAN-MACHINE
You're really gettin' my goat up.

DREDD
(to Bystander)
Get out of here, he's Butt-Crazy.

MEAN-MACHINE
(checks dial setting)
Jest makin' sure I'm still on Brutal...

Dredd regards him calmly.

DREDD
If I were you, I'd find the setting that said Retreat --

Mean reaches down, picks up a SURFBOARD, and CHARGES. He takes two steps, then discovers he's dragging a scared, skinny SURFER, still attached by his ankle-cord. He whaps it with his pincer, severing the cord. As the grateful kid runs for his life, Mean resumes the charge.

Dredd stands unmoving as Mean swings the surfboard like a bat. When it hits Dredd's helmet, it explodes in a light-plastic hailstorm. Mean stares down at the flimsy, hi-tech Board.

MEAN-MACHINE
Geez, what a crappy board.

DREDD
You're under arrest --

Mean takes a sweeping swing with his artificial arm, which Dredd grabs. Using it as a lever, he throws Mean over his shoulder and into the surf. Spluttering, Mean climbs back up, then comes at Dredd again clacking his claw.

DREDD
If you want to keep that thing, you better turn it off.

Dredd dodges Mean's first claw thrust, grabbing the bionic arm at the wrist, He ducks and turns, locking the wrist. Mean counters with a front roll. He lunges to his feet, and Dredd kicks him in the stomach. He sets his foot against Mean's ribs and turns and twists the bionic arm until it starts to spark and smoke. Mean BELLOWS in pain as the arm comes loose.

Mean staggers back on the sand and falls moaning.

DREDD
(tossing the arm behind him)
You should have stayed on Mellow, creep.

INT. MALL - WASTE PROCESSING PLANT - NIGHT

We SEE Flyball's back as he crosses from ONE MACHINE to ANOTHER inside the darkened Waste Disposal Center of the Block. A BLOCK SECURITY MAN is visible down an aisle in b.g., checking a machine.

CLOSER ANGLE - SECURITY GUARD

A CHILD'S BALL rolls into FRAME, bouncing down the aisle to the GUARD. He looks up, focuses --

HIS POV - FLYBALL

Flyball is wearing a CHILD'S MASK and, from a distance, looks like a cherubic little girl. He/she waves at the Guard.

The Guard leans over and picks up the ball, looks at it, and back at the little girl with growing consternation...

Suddenly the ball EXPLODES in his hands, taking him out.

Flyball runs down the aisle on his little feet, pulling on a hooded YELLOW SLICKER as he dives into a MAZE OF PIPES.

ANGLE - FLYBALL

Flyball removes the mask, folds it carefully, and hides it in a pouch. Then he climbs into a Waste Processing CHUTE leading to the bowels of the Block, and disappears.

INT. GIANT PROCESSING TUBE - NIGHT

Flyball reaches for the iron rungs across the roof of the Tunnel and swings hand-over-hand to a Ladder farther down the Tube. A large, albino ALLIGATOR with pink eyes basks in the murk below.

INT. PAVILLION - RECEPTION ROOM - NIGHT

MED-TECHS tend to the WOUNDED and Corpse-Disposal TEAMS are packing away the DEAD. The Muties have been confined to a corner, as Judges rush back and forth, trying to bring order to the chaos.

Dredd and Judge Fargo are talking. Judge Giant hurries over from the Mutie corner.

JUDGE GIANT
Sorry, sir, one of them's missing...the little one.

JUDGE FARGO
My drokk, I hope he's all right. Did anybody see what happened to him?

Dredd looks at Giant. Giant shakes his head.

JUDGE FARGO
I want him found -- call out every available Judge.

JUDGE GIANT
Some peace convention. Three of them are dead already...

INT. UNDERGROUND "OLD" CITY - SUBWAY TUNNEL - NIGHT

Flyball drops onto the tracks of an abandoned SUBWAY TUNNEL in the ruins of the bombed-out "old" City underneath Mega-City 1.

In front of him, a small, flickering LIGHT reveals an Electric GOLF CART sitting on the TRACKS.

Flyball climbs aboard, starts it up and shuttles toward the luminescent haze of Great Sewer Lake beyond.

DEAD-END - TUNNEL

The roof has caved in, blocking the tracks. Flyball parks the Golf Cart at the jumble.

ANGLE - ROCKPILE RUINS

Out of the ROCKS arise PEOPLE from the UNDERGROUND. Their skin seems to be made of old, wet burlap. The eyes and mouths of their faces are like lumps of coal. They greet Flyball with high, whistling SOUNDS, then lead him to a crevice in the rocks.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT./EXT. GREAT SEWER LAKE - BOAT - NIGHT

The Underground People row Flyball across the black water.

They beach on the far side, in front of more rubble from the War. As they climb out of the boats, their lights glisten off twisted girders -- and the Plasteel BARRIER under The Wall.

CLOSER - FLYBALL AT WALL

He compares the location with his notes on a well-creased MAP, then turns to the Undergrounders and nods.

They hand him a small, vibrating BOX. Flyball slides it open carefully.

INSERT - BOX

Inside are metallic-colored TERMITES.

FLYBALL (V.O.)
What's this? I expected laz-cannons. How am I supposed to get through the Wall with these bugs?

The Underground Leader gives him a whistling laugh, claps him on the back, and points him to the Wall.

INT. ANGEL TUNNEL - OTHER SIDE OF WALL

The Angel Gang sleeps noisily in a pile. A vibrant, buzzing HUM begins. They wake up one by one as the SOUND fills the tunnel.

PA ANGEL
Scrumm, what's that?

As the thresher-like CLICKING of the mandibles grows to deafening proportions, moments of fear and doubt cross the Gang's stolid, ugly faces.

INT. MONTALBAN BLOCK - RECREATION LEVEL - NIGHT

Dredd, Dag and Judge Fargo, followed by Earplug, pause in front of the slidewalk outside the ill-fated reception. In background, Judges escort the other Muties back to their quarters.

TRADER DAG
-- I will not postpone my speech just because of your Civil Disorders --

JUDGE FARGO
I tend to --

DREDD
(interrupts)
You brought Mean-Machine inside the Walls -- he's your disorder.

TRADER DAG
I don't know what could have happened -- Dr. Wu had him doing so well.

DREDD
Dr. Wu's not doing so well himself. Mean broke every bone in his body.

JUDGE FARGO
Drokk it, the speech goes on as planned. We must be able to protect you in the Hall of Justice.

DREDD
I'd have to recommend very strongly against it until I can locate Furball, or Fireplug, or whatever his name is --

TRADER DAG
Flyball...you suspect him now?! A man who's dedicated his life to our cause --

JUDGE FARGO
We're just as concerned for his safety as we are for yours --

He leads Dag off on the slidewalk. Dredd turns to Earplug.

DREDD
I don't suppose you know what's going on?

EARPLUG
If you keep protecting us, I think we'll all die.

She steps on the slidewalk, waving goodbye. Dredd is pissed. He waves for Judge Giant and Judge Morales, who join him.

JUDGE GIANT
Sentry Judge just checked the room -- he's not there.

DREDD
Start at the top, boys.

JUDGE MORALES
The Two-Hundred Forty-Fourth Floor??

DREDD
Every room.

EXT. MONTALBAN BLOCK - NIGHT

The BLOCK is alive with LIGHTS -- this could be a long night.

INT. ANGEL GANG TUNNEL - ANGLE ON ANGELS

They're huddled away from the barrier, cringing at the tremendous NOISE and VIBRATION, guns pointed at the end of the tunnel.

ANGLE - TUNNEL

A tiny hole appears in the center and starts to widen --

ANGELS
(in celebration)
There she goes, Pa...Yippee!!

-- but then they SEE a gleaming metallic mutie termite peeking through the hole. The Angels lurch backward, turning their concentrated FIREPOWER on the insect. They blow it away, with a couple of its curious friends. As the dust settles, they HEAR frantic whistles from the other side.

FLYBALL (V.O.)
Hold your fire!

DISSOLVE TO;

INT. UNDERGROUND CITY - OTHER SIDE OF TUNNEL

The Angel Gang tunnel is now open into the Underground City, the Plasteel barrier devoured by termites. The Underground People are busily spraying the sated mutie termites with an aerosol sleeping potion and putting them back in their boxes.

The Leader picks up two of the termites killed by the Angels. He whistles fiercely at Flyball. Pa Angel has the third dead termite in his hand.

PA ANGEL
Mutie termites, eh? Wish I had me a batch of these. I'd move back to the City.

FLYBALL
There's only thirteen of these in the whole world, and you killed three of them.

PA ANGEL
Them's the breaks. Nobody told me not to shoot at no bugs...

Link and Junior walk past, carrying BOMB-SHAPED CYLINDERS toward the Sewer Boat. Warnings are stencilled on the side of the cylinders, "Handle With Care" and "Danger."

PA ANGEL
(calls toward boat)
Be careful with them mines, Link! I wouldn't want to bring them Judges down here too soon...haw haw haw.

FLYBALL
Peace delegation, my hump! There can be no peace until every Judge is dead. You sure you know where to place the charges? I have to get back before they miss me --

PA ANGEL
(nods)
Guess Mean tore 'em up pretty good, huh?

FLYBALL
Last I saw him, you couldn't tell the blood from the cocktail sauce.

With that, Flyball scuttles away.

PA ANGEL
Haw haw haw...
(to Junior)
With the Judges gone, I'll be in charge of peace.

JUNIOR ANGEL
Haw haw haw.

Pa Angel slaps Junior hard.

PA ANGEL
Shut up, Junior.

INT. PAVILLION - RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

A CLEANING CREW watched idly by a Block GUARD straightens up the reception hall wreckage. One of the Cleaners is sweeping broken cups and plates into a bucket. When it's full, he goes through the Service Door to the Kitchen -- the same door through which Flyball disappeared.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The Cleaner pulls open a GARBAGE CHUTE in the wall, dumps the bucket. The heavy shards clatter against the metal sides of the chute. A MOAN comes out of the chute...the Cleaner looks unsure, starts to close the door when another MOAN is heard. He opens the chute all the way, sticks his head in, looks, then reaches in. After some effort, he comes out holding a dazed Flyball by the collar.

INT. DAG'S QUARTERS - NIGHT (PRE-DAWN)

Dag hangs in his sling chair revising his speech one last time in the wee small hours of the morning. Behind him, through the window, the neighboring Block looms...strange FLICKERING LIGHTS behind the windows of the conspicuously-dark area directly across the way. Dag's forehead wrinkles, his horns start to twitch --

-- but just then, a commotion outside the door interrupts his train of thought. He hauls himself out of his sling, waddles to the door and opens it.

INT. HALLWAY

Two MED-TECHS are wheeling Flyball down the corridor, followed by Judges Dredd, Morales and Giant.

Dag comes out from his room.

TRADER DAG
Flyball. You found him --
(to Flyball)
Where have you been?

FLYBALL
(moans)
I'm sorry, Dag...I got scared...

DREDD
Cleanup crew found him in the garbage chute at the reception. Says he jumped in there when Mean-Machine overloaded his circuits.

TRADER DAG
Was he badly hurt?

JUDGE MORALES
Just a couple of bumps and scrapes...guy dumped a load of broken crockery on him.

DREDD
Nothing serious.

FLYBALL
...sorry to let you down, Dag...have to miss the speech...

TRADER DAG
(to Dredd)
Nothing serious?

DREDD
Med-Techs gave him an adult dose of quaalars -- he's due for a 36-hour nap.

They wheel Flyball away.

DREDD
(to Dag)
You better get some sleep.

TRADER DAG
Plenty of time to sleep -- after tomorrow. Thanks.

Dag goes back into his room, closes the door. Dredd turns and goes back to the **ENTRANCE HALLWAY** to talk to the Sentry Judge.

ANGLE - DREDD & SENTRY JUDGE

DREDD
I want a man in the room, round-the-clock vidscans.

Judge Morales and Judge Giant return.

DREDD (CONT.)
I want the full-Block incident reports for the last twenty-four hours.

JUDGE GIANT
You have any idea how many incidents take place in a Block this size every day?

JUDGE MORALES
Don't ask Dredd questions -- he'll answer them.

DREDD
And find out who searched the kitchen when he first disappeared.

JUDGE GIANT
What's going on?

DREDD
I intend to find out.

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

CROWDS outside, and MEDIA are thronged in front of the Hall of Justice steps, held back by a line of Judges, as they strain to get a glimpse of the Muties.

INT. HALL OF HEROES - DAY

The Delegates, those who remain, are led through the Hall of Heroes toward the Great Council Chamber. Dredd and several other Judges form a cordon around Dag and Earplug.

MOVING SHOT - EARPLUG

She's looking around, awed in spite of herself.

EARPLUG'S POV - HALL OF HEROES COLLONADE

Tall, slender columns stretch toward high-vaulted ceilings. The walls are covered with Battle Flags and the names and faces of heroes carved in stone.

TRADER DAG (V.O.)
It's too bad...

MOVING WITH DAG & EARPLUG

Earplug turns back to Dag as they continue walking.

TRADER DAG
...Flyball has been by my side for so long. How he wanted to be here for this moment --

EARPLUG
Yeah, in your place.

TRADER DAG
You've never understood him.

EARPLUG
I don't understand ambition.

Dag pats her on the shoulder as if she's a simple child.

MOVING SHOT - NEW ANGLE

The procession approaches Judge Anderson's crypt. Earplug peers through the transparent Boing.

EARPLUG
She's beautiful...

MOVING WITH DREDD

He overhears the remark and looks over at Anderson as they walk by.

MOVING WITH DAG

A deep, heartfelt shudder ripples through his watery flesh as he reads the plaque.

DAG'S POV - ANDERSON'S CRYPT

The legend reads, "A Monster Dwells Within."

INT. RUINED SQUARE - "OLD" CITY

Several GIANT FOUNDATION PILLARS rise from the ruined city square. Link is standing on Junior's shoulders against the nearest pillar, attaching one of the cylinders while Pa supervises. The elder Angel is looking at a diagram.

PA ANGEL
If they ain't set jest right, it won't come down. Left, you dummy -- don't you know which way's left?!

Link holds up his right hand, overbalances, and they both fall down in a laughing heap. The cylinder rolls up to Pa's feet.

JUNIOR
Durn it, Link, it's my turn to be on top --

Pa wades among them like a grizzly sow separating her fighting cubs.

CUT TO:

SAME FOUNDATION PILLAR

Now Pa is standing on top of both Link and Junior, trying to set the charge. He drops the cylinder on Link's foot --

LINK ANGEL
OWW! Skragg!

-- and they tumble down. Pa scrambles to his feet in a white-heat rage, begins to wale on them again.

PA ANGEL
You idiots -- it's gonna be too late!

As the Angels regroup for one more try, the ANGLE WIDENS to include a stack of gleaming cylinder MINES on the Golf Cart, parked near the other foundation PILLARS, some of which have already been mined.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Judges and other Dignitaries fill the gallery. Security is intense. Heavily-armed Judges are spaced throughout the audience and around the perimeter of the Chamber. The raised Podium is barricaded on three sides by bulletproof plastic.

The COUNCIL OF FIVE is seated behind the Podium. Members of the Mutie Delegation are arranged on either side of them.

Directly opposite the podium, Dredd stands impassive in the doorway.

Earplug, stuck off at the end, looks around uncomfortably wishing she was closer to Dag -- who is mounting the Podium to light, scattered APPLAUSE.

TRADER DAG
Thank you...thank you very much. I'd like to take a moment to tell you a story... Forty-five years ago, my mother and I fled the horror of Apocalypse Canal...looking for sanctuary deep in the Cursed Earth...

ANGLE - DREDD

In the shadow of his helmet, his eyes are wary, watchful. The door cracks behind him.

Dredd turns, takes a look back as Dag DRONES on, then steps into the hall.

CLOSE ON EARPLUG

Dredd's exit has caught her eye. She watches him leave.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Judge Giant and Judge Morales are waiting for Dredd in the Hallway. Judge Giant has an armful of computer printouts.

JUDGE GIANT
Three thousand four hundred and forty six incidents --

DREDD
Drokk.

JUDGE MORALES
And that was a <u>good</u> day.

JUDGE GIANT
They all check out but two --
(opens printout)
Some old woman was attacked by a child on the Rec Level -- about a half hour before they found the dwarf.

JUDGE MORALES
And there was an odd explosion down at the Waste Plant in Sub-Level 17. Methane, Block Security says...funny thing though, it didn't damage any machinery but it blew the Guard all over the room.

JUDGE GIANT
Guess when, Dredd?

DREDD
Right after the little Mutie took off?

JUDGE MORALES
(nods)
He's still sleeping like an ugly baby --

JUDGE GIANT
So we ran an olfactory scan on him -- brick dust, sewer gas, and old air.

DREDD
Old City...
(into Comset)
All Judges...Condition Yellow.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

All over the large room, armed Judges suddenly stir. But Earplug seems to be the only one noticing the new tension in the air; the audience is involved in Dag's continuing speech. Two Judges move quietly to cover the door. Earplug watches, troubled.

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

Dredd, Morales and Giant race out the front to their Law-masters.

INT. OLD CITY - FOUNDATION PILLARS

Pa Angels stands on the roof of the Golf Cart setting the timer on the last mine. All of the cylinders have been placed on the pillars, and timers set. Link and Junior are fighting over the keys to the Golf Cart.

JUNIOR ANGEL
My turn to drive ---

LINK ANGEL
You keep runnin' into things, Junior --

INSERT - DIGITAL TIMER - CYLINDER MINE

Pa's grimy fingers set the timer for ten minutes.

ANGLE - ANGEL GANG

Pa jumps off the top of the Golf Cart just as Junior is sinking his teeth into Link's wrist. He kicks them apart and jerks the keys out of Link's tooth-marked hand.

PA ANGEL
I'm drivin' this buggy!

LINK & JUNIOR
Aww, Pa...how come? Why, Pa??

PA ANGEL
(thumbs his chest)
Cause I'm the only member of this family with a Valid Driver's License!

Link and Junior scramble into the back of the cart. Pa pushes the BUTTON on the remote-control, which starts all the TIMERS at once.

PA ANGEL
Let's git out of here, boys, before it starts raining Judges!

He jumps behind the wheel of the Golf Course and putts off down the entrance of an abandoned subway.

INSERT - ONE OF THE TIMERS

CLICKING DOWN from ten minutes.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Dag's speech reaches a passionate peak.

TRADER DAG
...we're all children of the same mother: Mother Earth. Muties and Norms -- Yes, let's use those words -- and the time has come for all her children to work together. We need each other...

CAMERA PANS the Chamber, revealing that the Pillars supporting the ceiling look just like the mined pillars in the underground city.

EXT. MEGA-CITY - SECTOR 4 AIRLOCK ENTRANCE - DAY

Dredd and the others scream to a stop in front of a concrete block building with a huge AIRLOCK inside of it. In the background, we SEE Ricardo Montalban Block looming overhead. They go through the entrance marked "Authorized Judges Only" and enter the airlock.

INT. UNDERGROUND CITY - OTHER SIDE OF AIRLOCK

Dredd, Giant and Morales come through the airlock and proceed down metal steps toward the cavernous City underworld below.

INT. MINED PILLARS

The TIMERS are ticking away crazily, no longer in synch. Some are still at eight-minutes-plus, one is at five, and another is at two minutes -- which clicks down to zero in the two-seconds we see it. At ZERO, a low-frequency THUMPING SOUND begins. As the SOUND INCREASES in intensity, DUST and MORTAR starts to erode from the side of the pillar. After a few seconds, another sonic mine kicks in.

INT. ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL - UNDERGROUND CITY

The Angel Gang riding the Golf Cart down the STEPS -- they smile as the THUMPING SOUND echoes from above.

INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE TUNNEL - INTERSECTION

Judge Dredd leads Judges Giant and Morales down the tunnel toward the underground foundations of Montalban Block. At the intersection, they pause to look at a map.

JUDGE GIANT
Montalban Block should be just a few hundred meters down this way...

JUDGE MORALES
What's that...?

They HEAR faint thumping, coming from the other tunnel.

DREDD
Sonic implosion mines.

JUDGE MORALES
I thought they weren't allowed in the city --

JUDGE GIANT
Too hard to control...

Dredd glances at the mapscreen.

DREDD
That tunnel runs directly under the Hall of Justice --

The THUMPING increases as they head into the tunnel.

INT. ABANDONED SUBWAY - TUNNEL

The Golf Cart makes the turn at the first landing, bouncing crazily. Starting down the final flight of steps, Pa Angel loses it, gets the Cart sideways -- and they tumble ass-over-teakettle to the bottom. As they scramble out of the pile -- Link and Junior both laugh at Pa, still stuck in the wreckage.

LINK
Driver's license, my horny foot!

JUNIOR
Haw haw haw...

Pa Angel heaves mightily, tossing the Golf Cart aside.

PA ANGEL
If I didn't love you boys, you'd be dead meat.

INT. FOUNDATION PILLARS - UNDER HALL OF JUSTICE

As the IMPLOSION MINES thump away, the PILLARS vibrate and the RUINS around the Square tremble. As debris flies off the Pillars, large cracks appear in the Hall of Justice foundation

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - HALL OF JUSTICE

Earplug is the first one to notice anything -- the distant thumping from below.

She looks at Dag. Then at the Judges guarding the exits.

TRADER DAG
...an uninterrupted train of food convoys, increased production at your mines...as you can see, it would be to your advantage to have Law in the Cursed Earth...

Earplug starts to stand, but a Judge looks at her sternly. She slouches in her seat. When the Judge looks away, Earplug slips to the floor, drawing only the attention of the Muties beside her. She crouches, and places one ear to the floor, worried.

INT. ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL - ANGEL GANG

The Angels have righted the Golf Cart, ripped the top off it, and are now trying to start it: Junior and Link are at the back, with Pa at the wheel, all three pushing the Cart down the tracks.

MOVING SHOT - ANGELS ON TRACKS

As they push faster and faster, the engine coughing occasionally until it bursts into a puttering whine, then dies. The Angels push harder, building up momentum like a speeding flatcar on a downhill track. Finally, the engine starts and they leap aboard, laughing. Pa reaches back and slaps Link on the leg, but when he turns to the front, the laughter dies.

MOVING SHOT - POV - JUDGES

Backlit, the three Judges standing across the tunnel, waiting for them.

TIGHT ON ANGELS

Pa slams on the brakes, the Boys SCREAM, draw their GUNS and begin FIRING.

ANGLE - JUDGES

Dredd and the others RETURN FIRE with a cannonade of armour-piercing TRACERS.

TUNNEL - GUNFIGHT

As the Angels leap off, the AP ROUNDS shred the Golf Cart, which careens down the tunnel toward the Judges. They dive to the side, giving the Angels a chance to recover and retreat up the Tunnel, FIRING all the way.

Giant and Morales lay down covering fire, as Dredd goes after them. The Tunnel is filled with richocheting tracers and exploding rock dust.

ANGLE - ABANDONED SUBWAY - EXIT STAIRS

The Angels take cover behind a concrete balustrade thick enough to deflect the Judges' fire. They hold off the Judges long enough to catch their breath. Down the tunnel behind them, the roof gives way and collapses, blocking the track.

PA ANGEL
(to Junior)
We gotta get out of here -- but quick!

A series of AP ROUNDS crash into the concrete, sending chunks flying.

PA ANGEL
(to Link)
Son, you gotta mount a little Rear-Guard action for your Pa...

Dust is trickling down from the top of the tunnel ceiling. Link fires a couple of aimless rounds as Pa and Junior dart up the Subway stairs. A fist-sized piece of rubble falls on his head. He flinches -- then some more FIRE from the Judges sends him scurrying after his Pa.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - HALL OF JUSTICE

A TREMOR HITS the crowded Council Chamber. PEOPLE look around in disbelief. They stand up, muttering, glancing around the room. Then ANOTHER TREMOR HITS. The first jittery movements of panic spread through the crowd.

Dag stops in mid-sentence, frightened and confused. He looks toward Earplug.

Earplug tries to break through the crowd toward him.

Suddenly, in Dag's panicked face, a flash of GREEN LIGHT fills his eyes. Then his face becomes very calm.

The THIRD TREMOR rumbles through the frantic crowd.

TWO JUDGES take Dag's arms and lead him to a PASSSAGEWAY behind the Podium. Earplug follows them.

INT. FOUNDATION PILLARS - UNDER HALL OF JUSTICE

Pa and Junior run across the Square. Link passes them as if they're standing still. They dive into the rubble beyond the Pillars. The Judges appear at the Exit. A VOLLEY of rounds from the Angels drives Giant and Morales back down the steps.

Dredd launches himself across the open space and rolls up behind a crumbling Pillar. He looks up and SEES the Sonic Implosion Mine...FIRES a round at its base, and BLOWS it off the pole. SEES other MINES on the Pillars flanking his. He can't get an angle on these two without exposing himself.

Dredd sticks his head around one side of the Pillar, and the Angels all take shots at him. He quickly rolls to the other side, snaps off a round that takes out another MINE. By the time the Angels redirect their fire, Dredd has already tumbled back to the other side, blasting the other MINE, then taking cover behind the Pillar.

In b.g. Morales and Giant have come out of the stairwell and taken cover behind pillars.

The Pillar directly in front of the Angels COLLAPSES on itself

JUNIOR
I thought we were gettin' out of here, Pa!

PA ANGEL
(shouts at Dredd)
Ain't no scrummy Judges takin' me alive!

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - FULL SHOT

With the collapse of the pillar below, the one in the Chamber starts to crumble. The ROOM TILTS. Behind the PANICKED CROWD the Eagle of Justice falls from the wall, crushing the Podium.

INT. BACK PASSAGE - HALL OF JUSTICE

As the passageway shakes, the Judges herding Dag to safety turn and see Earplug following them. Dag SEES her too, tugs on his earlobe. Earplug ZAPS both Judges, who fall to their knees, clutching their helmets. She rushes to Dag, relieved.

TRADER DAG
Thank God you're safe --

EARPLUG
Where were they taking you?

TRADER DAG
I don't know...I don't know who to trust anymore.

EARPLUG
Dag, we've got to go --

TRADER DAG
I've got something to do first.

TIGHT ON DREDD

As he reloads, the Pillar behind him disintegrates. He crouches lower as bullets fly by. He hears sounds of protest from the Angel camp.

LINK ANGEL (V.O.)
-- pa, we gotta go!

DREDD
You're not going anywhere but a PurgCube, Link...

JUNIOR (V.O.)
Oh no, Pa --

DREDD
Unless you help me get these mines down from here!

A short SILENCE from the Angels. Dredd steps out, faces the Angels.

WIDER ANGLE

The Angel Gang, after a beat, stands up. Giant and Morales move out of cover. Dredd takes aim at the nearest mine and blows it off a crumbling pillar. The Angels step out from behind the rubble, and join in.

After all the mines are disarmed, Judge Dredd holsters his Lawgiver, walks over to the Angel Gang, whose guns still hang in their hands.

DREDD
I'll take those now.

They surrender their weapons. Pa shakes his head.

PA ANGEL
I'm sure glad your Maw ain't here to see this, boys.

JUNIOR
Can we get outta here --?

They glance nervously around at the damaged pillars.

JUDGE MORALES
Yeah, Dredd, we can cuff 'em later --

DREDD
Cuff 'em now.

INT. HALL OF HEROES

Using his sluglike bulk, Dag shoulders his way through the crowd rushing for the exits, Earplug in tow. As the crowd thins, Dag steps to the side and pulls Earplug with him behind a draped banner.

Earplug looks at Dag in confusion.

EARPLUG
What's going on, Pops?

Dag puts his hand on her head.

TRADER DAG
Trust me, child.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER

As Judges finish evacuating the Chamber, another column cracks apart and falls across the empty seats. Sections of the floor give way under the weight.

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

CROWDS are fleeing as debris and windowplas crash down on the Hall of Justice steps.

At a SIDE ENTRANCE, Muties are being herded protectively by Judges toward the armored bus. The innocent survivors of the Peace Delegation look helpless, amid the overall chaos.

Suddenly, a rock flies out of the crowd and hits one of them. Cries of "Mutie War!", "Get 'em out!" and "Exterminate the brutes!" are HEARD. The Muties cower, climbing on the bus.

INT. HALL OF HEROES - DAG & EARPLUG

The vast Hall of Heroes appears empty. Dag steps out from behind the drapery, glances around. The HEAVY DOORS at either end CLANG SHUT. The LIGHTS DIM. Earplug steps out.

EARPLUG
What's that?

TRADER DAG
Nothing.

EARPLUG
(notices the doors)
Nothing? We're locked in a crumbling building...

TRADER DAG
It's all taken care of.

Dag moves slowly toward the shadowed wall, where he gestures toward a rack of "primitive" laser-rifles in a thick glass DISPLAY CASE. He looks at Earplug.

TRADER DAG
Can you break through that?

EARPLUG
No problem, if that's what you want...

Earplug tugs her lobe and concentrates. The heavy glass acts as a sounding board for Earplug's MUSIC, which we hear for the first time -- '80s Heavy Metal rock and roll rising to a shrill crescendo. The GLASS turns to powder.

Dag reaches in, takes down a "primitive" LAS-RIFLE, heavy, awkward, and lethal. Dag starts walking away.

EARPLUG
Don't I need one?

TRADER DAG
Don't worry, we'll be protected. He promised -- and peace at last, too --

EARPLUG
He -- ?

Earplug looks confused. The rifle glows green in Dag's hands. Dag whirls, FIRING from his hip, O.S.

ANGLE - ANDERSON/DEATH'S CRYPT - DAG, EARPLUG

Dag advances on the CRYPT, firing. As the LASER BEAM strikes the Boing Cube, SPARKS FLY. The Cube GLOWS hotly, then begins to break apart like an eggshell, around Anderson's inert body..

Earplug reacts with a start.

EARPLUG
Dag, what are you doing?!

Dag's face is in a trance -- as GREEN SMOKE starts to pour out from the cracks.

EARPLUG
You can't!

She goes for him, trying for the gun. Dag sweeps her aside with uncharacteristic force, knocking her to the floor. Then he FIRES again and breaks the Crypt wide open.

TIGHT ON EARPLUG

Dazed, she stares at Dag with horror.

HER POV - DAG AT CRYPT

The green gas swirls briefly and takes form. The spirit of JUDGE DEATH hovers in front of Dag.

JUDGE DEATH
Freee...at...lasst.

Dag blinks slowly, emerging from Death's trance.

TRADER DAG
Who are you? You're not what I thought --

CAMERA PULLS BACK to include Earplug in FRAME, watching aghast. She gets up slowly from the floor.

TRADER DAG
My God, what have I done...

Death laughs.

JUDGE DEATH
I've been watching you for a long time...I am a man of peace also. The peace...of death.

TRADER DAG
But your promises -- my dreams --

JUDGE DEATH
There <u>will</u> be peace...when my judgment iss finisshed.

He reaches for Dag.

JUDGE DEATH
You've helped me...now you must die sso that death may live!

TRADER DAG
Then it's all been for nothing -- my life, my work --

JUDGE DEATH
Rest in peace, my friend. Your guilt will ssoon be purged...

TRADER DAG
Yes...

He turns and pitches the rifle to Earplug.

TRADER DAG
Run, child, run --

Earplug grabs the rifle off the floor -- as Dag embraces the vaporous form of Judge Death. She levels the gun, but can't fire at Dag. He's fighting Death's control.

TRADER DAG
(strangled voice)
Pull the trigger...

EARPLUG
I can't --

Death laughs out of Dag's mouth.

DAG/DEATH
You foolish child. The crime iss life...the ssentence iss death.

EARPLUG
Not hardly --

She SHOOTS the floor in front of Dag/Death. A section collapses. Dag/Death disappears as if a trap door had opened under his feet. Then she turns and blows her way through the door.

INT. FLOOR BELOW - EVACUATED OFFICES

Possessed by the spirit of Death, Dag lumbers to his feet. He starts walking toward the Exit door.

DEATH'S VOICE
You're so sslow, old man.

EXT. CITY STREET - DUSK

Dag is skulking down an ALLEY beside a FOOD SUPPLY POINT. A LEAGUE OF FATTIES protest group has congregated out front with their "More Food For Fatties" SIGNS.

FATTIES
(ad-lib)
Mutie Peace means more food! Big people need big meals!

One especially-strident FATTY bellywheels toward the alley. Dag yanks him into the shadows.

A few moments later, Dag comes out wearing the Fatty's cloak, his mutant's body well-hidden, waddling off toward Montalban Block and its neighbor, Sonny & Cher Block.

INT. FLYBALL'S QUARTERS - MONTALBAN VIP SUITES - NIGHT

Flyball is still in his drugged sleep, smiling sweetly. Dredd stands over his bed.

DREDD
He'll stop smiling when he wakes up in an Iso-Cube.

He steps aside, clearing a path for two MED-TECHS, carrying a stretcher and a small strait-jacket.

INT. HALLWAY

As Dredd watches Med-Techs carry Flyball away, he sees Judge Skinner coming toward him down the hall, with Earplug, her Las-Rifle propped on her shoulder.

EARPLUG
Dredd --

JUDGE SKINNER
(points at her gun)
Sorry, Dredd, every time a Judge tries to take it away from her, he faints.

Earplug and Dredd exchange tired grins.

DREDD
That's all right...

JUDGE SKINNER
-- and there's still no sign of her Leader.

EARPLUG
I've got to talk to you.

Dredd takes Earplug aside as Skinners exits. They go into Dag's quarters.

INT. DAG'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

As soon as Earplug is inside the room, she sets down the gun and starts sobbing.

DREDD
Where's Dag?

EARPLUG
I don't know --

DREDD
This whole Peace Delegation -- just an excuse to destroy the Hall of Justice --

EARPLUG
No, it wasn't Dag --

DREDD
He's the Leader, how do you expect me to believe that he and the Angels --

EARPLUG
Dredd, that thing that was in the pretty Judge -- it's in Dag now.

DREDD
Stomm! Judge Death.

He starts for the door.

EARPLUG
Please, wait! I owe my life to Dag. Try to help him if you can.

DREDD
If this creep is back on the loose again, we'll all need help.

Dredd exits fast. Earplug sighs miserably, drifts to the WINDOW. She looks across the way at the Sonny & Cher Block. The dark space directly opposite the window has now grown to occupy the entire middle of the building. As she watches, flickers of green light play on the windows.

INT. S&C BLOCK - APARTMENT ACROSS THE WAY - NIGHT

Trader Dag is slumped in the corner, his slug-flesh heaving. In front of him, GREEN LASERS wash over a pile of lumpy WHITE DUST set on a narrow TABLE. As Death's body takes form under the green rays, we hear OTHER VOICES.

JUDGE MORTIS (V.O.)
Let the dead fluids flow...

JUDGE FEAR (V.O.)
Fill these soulless bones...

Judge Death's body is almost completed.

JUDGE FIRE (V.O.)
Death lives!

We hear the WHOOSH of an O.S. FLAME.

CLOSE SHOT - DAG

The LIGHTS waver across his wasted face.

ANGLE - ROOM - JUDGE DEATH

Judge Death sits up on the table, touching his decayed body.

JUDGE DEATH
Aahhh...

JUDGE MORTIS (V.O.)
We knew you had met with difficultiesss. We've brought the sshield!

As Death stands up and stretches. CAMERA PULLS BACK and we see the other DARK JUDGES, Fear, Mortis, and Fire.

Mortis has a horse's skull head. Flames ripple about Fire's large form. And Fear's face is hidden behind the VISOR of his bat-winged helmet.

JUDGE DEATH
Let the judgment begin.

Death steps forward toward Dag.

JUDGE DEATH (CONT.)
(to Dag)
We've come from <u>our</u> dimension...to bring peace to <u>yours</u>. Long ago the Judges on our world saw that war and crime were only committed by the living.

JUDGE MORTIS
Therefore, life itself was made illegal!

JUDGE FIRE
We judged our people -- all of them.

JUDGE DEATH
We wiped the curse of life from our world. Now we have come to judge yoursss!

Death steps before Trader Dag.

TRADER DAG
Then it's all been for nothing.

JUDGE DEATH
It always is...

Judge Death reaches inside Dag's chest, clutches his heart and lifts him off the ground. Dag's face contorts with agony, as he begins to melt. Within moments, he's become a viscous yellow puddle on the floor. Death still clutches Dag's heart in his hand -- he tosses it in the corner.

JUDGE DEATH
Let the sshield's power flow!

Judge Fear touches an ovoid Force-Field generator, which begins to hum.

EXT. STREET - S&C BLOCK - NIGHT

Dredd is speeding away from the Montalban Block, down the STREET outside the adjacent Block. The S&C building is suddenly engulfed in faint blue LIGHT.

MOVING WITH DREDD

The SHIELD comes down right in front of the speeding Lawmaster. He SLAMS on the BRAKES, skids sideways into the shield, and WIPES OUT.

ANGLE - DREDD

Unhurt but rattled, Dredd picks himself up out of the wreckage of his bike.

DREDD
Drokk.

He looks up, SEES the building bathed in the light of the Dark Judge's shield.

The SCREAMS of the DYING can be heard in the street.

INT. S&C BLOCK - APARTMENT - NIGHT

Three middle-class COUPLES are having a cocktail party, talking about Life, when Death walks in, uninvited. In the dim light, they mistake him for a Judge, and try to hide their illegal drinks.

MAN
A Judge --

WOMAN
Is it a raid?

TIGHT ON A TERRIFIED WOMAN - DRESSING ROOM

She stares into her makeup mirror, frozen in the act of putting on mascara, looking at the reflection of the Dark Judge behind her.

JUDGE FEAR
Look into the face of Fear!

He opens his VISOR. We can't see the face -- but she can. She SCREAMS.

ARTIFICIAL BEACH - ANGLE ON SURFER

A teenage KAHUNA catches an artificial wave and rides it toward the beach.

SURFER'S POV

Judge Mortis is waiting for him on the sand, his arms outstretched, the projected background of a South Pacific paradise shining behind him. WE barrel toward him in FAST MOTION OVER THE WATER, until his SKULL FILLS the FRAME.

PANIC AT THE BEACH

As BEACH PEOPLE flee, screaming, from the sight of Mortis as he kills Surfer O.S.

ANGLE - OCEAN

Across the waves, the SILHOUETTES of the other three Dark Judges shadow the artificial horizon.

EXT. S&C BLOCK - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

All of the other JUDGES have gathered, under Dredd's direction, outside the Force-Field.

DREDD
We can't warn the Block -- radio waves won't penetrate.

JUDGE GIANT
(points at entrance)
Look! People running out.

Terrified OCCUPANTS pour out of S&C Block and run frantically toward safety, unable to see the Shield.

JUDGE MORALES
(waving)
Stop! Stop!

JUDGE GIANT
They can't see the shield.

DREDD
They can't hear us.

Judges try to wave them back -- to no avail. As the first wave of CITIZENS splash against the force-field, they BURST INTO FLAME. The rest of the crowd skids to a halt.

The Judges closest to the shield turn to Dredd.

JUDGE
Must be a hundred dead --

DREDD
A hundred! It's the other seventy thousand in that block I'm worried about.

JUDGE GIANT
What are we going to do?

DREDD
I wish Anderson was here. We sure could have used her...

ANDERSON (V.O.)
Speak my name and I appear...

ANGLE TO INCLUDE JUDGE ANDERSON

Dredd turns around to find Judge Anderson standing behind him, her Psi-badge shining. She grins at him.

ANDERSON (CONT.)
...Dreddie.

Dredd does not look amused.

ANDERSON (CONT.)
It's good to see you, too. I'm pleased to discover there's life after Boing...

DREDD
Can you tell where he is in the Block?

ANDERSON
Really, Dredd, you could at least say hello...it's not like I was taking a nap.

DREDD
I'm glad to see you, Anderson.

ANDERSON
Well, contain your gladness. Judge Death's got three...how shall I say...professional colleagues in there with him.

DREDD
Can you get a reading on this force field?

ANDERSON
(concentrating)
...some kind of a sonic barrier... I think I can get through.

DREDD
Watch out. Remember, this guy knows you inside out.

ANDERSON
Very funny.

She concentrates her mind against the Force-Field. A BOLT of blue LIGHT ZAPS her. She stumbles backward, dismayed.

DREDD
Are you okay?

ANDERSON
I can't get through -- it just throws my Psi-Waves back at me.
(sighs)
My transmitter just hasn't got it --

DREDD
We've got to get to the Force Field generator. Maybe --

He turns to Morales.

DREDD
I know somebody who can turn up the volume. Get me the little Mutie girl.

EXT. WALL - MUTIE CAMPS OUTSIDE CITY - NIGHT

The hopeful FACES of Mutie Refugees waiting outside the wall are raised in wonder staring at the blue-shrouded Block building behind the dome.

INT. S&C BLOCK - CHASTITY PARK

Beleaguered BLOCK SECURITY MEN fire their RIFLES, trying to resist the implacable advance of the Four Dark Judges across Chastity Park. Judge Fire aims his pitchfork at the Guards. Jets of FLAME fly from the tynes INCINERATING them. Terrified, defenseless CITIZEN flee for the exits.

EXT. S&C BLOCK - OUTSIDE FORCE-FIELD - NIGHT

A huge crowd of PEOPLE have filled the space between the Block and the Force-Field. Occasional SPARKS flare as people are jostled too near the Shield.

Judge Morales drives up on his motorcycle with Earplug on the back. She gets off.

EARPLUG
Thanks for the ride.

JUDGE MORALES
Any time.

EARPLUG
Sure, look me up next time you're in the Cursed Earth.

He escorts her over to Dredd and Anderson.

JUDGE MORALES
Take good care of her.

DREDD
(to Anderson)
This is Earplug.

ANDERSON
Hi.

Anderson places her hands on either side of Earplug's face.

ANDERSON
(to Dredd)
She's not a Mutie, she's a Psi...
(to Earplug)
If you can weaken the shield a little bit, deflect the waves -- I think I can get through.

EARPLUG
Dag's in there --?

ANDERSON
Judge Death used his body to get here. I'm sorry.

EARPLUG
(a beat, then)
Show me where.

DREDD
This is one time you can turn it all the way up.

EARPLUG
You guys better stand back.

DREDD
Ready, Anderson?

Anderson puts her arm around Dredd's waist and holds him tight. Dredd's taken aback.

DREDD
Is this necessary?

ANDERSON
Loosen up, Dreddie. We've got to go through together.

Earplug smiles.

ANDERSON
Okay, sister -- here we go.

Earplug tugs her lobe and focuses her power on the Shield. PEOPLE on the other side jump back as LOUD MUSIC reverberates off the Shield.

JUDGE GIANT
She's getting through --

He and other Judges hold their ears.

TIGHT ON ANDERSON AND DREDD

Every ounce of Anderson's mental power is focused against the Shield.

ANDERSON
Got to...force...it...open!

The shield crackles under the combined force, throwing hot light over their faces.

ANGLE - SHIELD

They step through in a fiery shower to the other side of the Shield.

ANGLE - EARPLUG

As the Shield reforms behind Dredd and Anderson, Earplug waves.

EARPLUG
Good luck!

INSIDE THE SHIELD - S&C BLOCK

The Crowd CHEERS Dredd and Anderson when they appear.

DREDD
Good work, Anderson.

AD-LIBS
Judge Dredd! Thank God you've come!

DREDD
Don't count your chickens yet, Citizen.

ANGLE - DREDD & ANDERSON

They look up at the towering Block.

DREDD
Can you get a fix on the generator?

ANDERSON
You don't have a rat like Death camped out in your brain without picking up a few tricks. Come on --

She leads him closer to the Building, then pulls up short.

ANDERSON
I'm getting it...one hundred and seventy seventh floor!

DREDD
What about the Judges?

ANDERSON
(concentrating)
Oh my God, Dredd, they're killing everybody --

DREDD
Be careful, Anderson.

ANDERSON
They've killed their way down to the Recreation Level...

DREDD
Let's go for the Shield.

ANDERSON
I don't know, that's an awful lot of stairs...

DREDD
We'll use the emergency elevators.

ANDERSON
Won't they see us?

DREDD
I hate to say it, but we have to hope they're busy.

INT. ENTRANCE PLAZA - S&C BLOCK

Dredd and Anderson fight their way through the Crowd past the Reception Area to a bank of SECURITY ELEVATORS and ANTI-GRAV TUBES. Dredd unlocks one, and they get in.

INT. POV FROM ELEVATOR

For a few moments, all that Dredd and Anderson see are the blank walls of the elevator shaft as it rises. Then the walls fall away revealing the cavernous SHOPPING MALL inside the Block. The mall is littered with bodies. The elevator goes inside another dark shaft.

TIGHT ON DREDD AND ANDERSON

They exchange a look, then light again fills the elevator as they reach a higher level of the Mall.

POV FROM ELEVATOR

As they rise up, they see more carnage. And then, across the way, they see the Dark Judges. Death and the others have cornered a large group of Citizens and are methodically passing judgment.

MALL -REVERSE ANGLE ON ELEVATOR

Mortis is holding a struggling YOUNG WOMAN by the shoulders. As Death steps in front of her she drops to her knees. Death leans over and reaches for her heart, O.S.

Behind them, in far b.g., the elevator crawls upward.

TIGHT ON DREDD AND ANDERSON

Holding their breath.

ANGLE - DARK JUDGES

They don't see Dredd and Anderson. Judge Fear has an OLD MAN paralyzed in front of him. He opens his visor, revealing his face to the man.

JUDGE FEAR
Gaze into the face of Fear...

The Old Man drops dead on the spot.

As Dredd and Anderson start to go out of sight, Judge Death rises, turns -- SEES them.

JUDGE DEATH
Dreddd...

The Dark Judges stare at each other.

JUDGE DEATH
The ssshield!

The Dark Judges race for the ELEVATOR BANKS on their side of the Mall.

INT. 177TH FLOOR HALLWAY - DREDD & ANDERSON

Elevator doors open. The Hallway looks like a scene from Hell, carpeted with bits and pieces of bone, draped with webs.

As Dredd and Anderson look around in amazement, the hallway seems to elongate and go out of focus.

DREDD
Looks like the Shield generator has created a Dimension Warp:..

ANDERSON
It's Deadworld...leaking into ours. I can feel it...so many people have died, we've got to stop it. This way.

They go down the gruesome hallway.

ANGLE

Dredd and Anderson are moving toward the eerie GLOW from an open APARTMENT.

INT. "DEADWORLD" APARTMENT

The dimensional presence of Deadworld has transformed the room where Dag died. The floor of the apartment is completely covered with skeletal remains. Anderson pauses in the doorway. Dredd draws his Lawgiver. The back of the room is a dark VOID framed with the skulls and bones of unnameable beasts and insects.

Dag's melted body lies across a rock.

ANDERSON
Who's that?

DREDD
Trader Dag...mutie conspirator.

ANDERSON
No, Dredd, you're wrong. I can still feel something. I think he was a good man.

DREDD
(sighs)
For a good man, he sure caused a lot of trouble.

They HEAR the clanging of chains from the void-half of the room.

ANDERSON
I hate to be a party pooper, Dredd, but these creeps aren't exactly going to be pushovers on their own turf.

DREDD
I don't like the interior decorating any more than you do, but this is still Sonny & Cher Block and I'm the Law here.

JUDGE DEATH (V.O.)
(from dark void)
We've been waiting for you...Dredd...Anderssonnn...

The Dark Judges step forward and become visible in the void. As they come forward, the walls of the room seem to disappear into a barren wasteland. Anderson draws her own Lawgiver.

ANDERSON
The generator's behind them --

DREDD
(nods)
Ready?

ANDERSON
Ready.

DREDD
Let 'em have it!

They pour a VOLLEY into the Dark Judges. It has no effect. They all laugh.

JUDGE FIRE
Foolsss -- your bullets cannot defeat usss...

JUDGE MORTIS
You cannot kill...what does not live.

They keep on walking toward each other. A loud, sickening SNAP from the floor is followed by a SCREAM from Anderson. She's caught in the vise-like jaws of a MANTRAP.

Judge Fear sweeps toward Dredd, grabs him by the shoulder with one hand, lifts open his visor with the other.

JUDGE FEAR
Gaze into the face of Fear...

An icy chill of terror courses down Dredd's spine, as he looks in Fear's face (invisible, as always, to the CAMERA). The shock would kill an ordinary man. But Dredd shakes it off.

DREDD
Gaze into the fist of Dredd!

Dredd delivers a right, straight from the shoulder, into Fear's face -- a punch so hard Dredd's fist comes out the back of his helmet. Fear hits the ground like a bag of bones.

DREDD
Hang tough, Anderson -- I've got to get the generator!

ANGLE - ANDERSON

Crouching over the trap clamped around her leg, her hands among the bones, she gasps for breath. Her hands start to move among the bones.

ANDERSON
No...out of my head.. Stop...it's too much!

"DEADWORLD" APARTMENT

Dredd turns to face the others.

DREDD
Anderson, what is it?

ANDERSON
All the people they murdered --

She clutches her head and slumps to the floor, unconscious.

JUDGE DEATH
Murder? You dare to judge us -- you who have failed in your duty to judge your own people?

Dredd and the Dark Judges face off. Judge Fire hurls his burning pitchfork at Dredd. Dredd tries to duck but it catches him in the left shoulder, sinking deep into his shoulderplate.

Dredd reels backward slightly, then jerks it out and throws it to the floor next to Judge Fear's crumpled form.

Judge Mortis wades into the fray, knocking Dredd all over the room with great sweeping blows. Dredd's weakening. Judge Death watches, laughing, as Mortis throws Dredd into a pile of bones.

He rises slowly to his knees.

POV - DREDD

From this angle, Dredd can SEE the ovoid SHIELD GENERATOR glowing on a dais behind Judge Death.

Dredd draws his Lawgiver, aims at the generator. But before he can fire, the gun melts in his hand.

JUDGE DEATH
It's stupid to resisssst, Dredd.

"DEADWORLD" APARTMENT

The Dark Judges are moving in for the kill. Judge Fear gets up from the floor to join his Brothers. Dredd struggles to his feet.

ANGLE - ANDERSON

Anderson raises her head, half-conscious. She SEES Dredd's about to be Judged. Heaving herself up to her knees, she picks up a handful of bones. Her face writhes with the effort.

ANDERSON
Spirits of the unjustly slain...

We HEAR a soft WHISPER fill the room. It is a rising chorus of many VOICES murmuring... Anderson starts to grow stronger as a Psychic power flows into her. She opens the man-trap, stands slowly.

ANGLE - DARK JUDGES, DREDD

As the Dark Judges surround Dredd, Judge Death cackles.

JUDGE DEATH
I can squeeze your ssoul until it bleedsss.

Dredd glances at the Shield, helpless. Judge Fire rushes forward, grapples with Dredd, who throws him off.

ANDERSON

As the chorus of voices around her grows louder, Anderson kneels and picks up an armful of bones.

VOICES
(whispering)
Revenge...guilty, you are guilty...

ANDERSON
Help me...help me...

VOICES
...revenge. Let the Judges be judged...

The VOICES rise to a cacaphony.

THE DARK JUDGES

As Judge Fire tries to get up, something holds him back. His fire ebbs.

JUDGE FIRE
What is it?

Judge Death turns around and faces Anderson.

JUDGE DEATH
Andersson...my mind is too strong for your puny psychic powers...

Death flinches. Anderson's eyes are rolled-back, her teeth tightly clenched, as the power from the Spirits of the Judged surge through her.

ANDERSON
JUDGMENT!!

The Dark Judges reel backward. They stare transfixed at Anderson.

TIGHT ON ANDERSON

She summons forth the Spirits with all her might. SUPERIMPOSED over her face are SHOTS -- a MONTAGE -- of anguished PEOPLE crying out for help, the starving, the wounded, the war-torn and weary, lost children, concentration camp victims. Anderson recedes as the FACES filling the screen become more and more ANGRY.

THE DARK JUDGES, DREDD

The Dark Judges are visibly weakened as their millions of victims rise up from the spirit world to take revenge.

VOICES
You are guilty! Death -- the sentence is death!

Death and the Dark Judges HOWL IN PAIN as they're assaulted by the Spirits. Dredd looks over, sees Anderson working hard.

DREDD
Hold tight, Anderson!

Judge Mortis moves his massive bulk toward Dredd, grabs his damaged shoulder. Dredd writhes in pain.

JUDGE MORTIS
I'm going to tear you limb from limb --

DREDD
Start with this --

Dredd clenches his fist, slams Mortis in the middle of his horse-skull face, a heavy hammering blow. Mortis releases his shoulder. Dredd grasps the chains draped from Mortis's shoulder, jerks him down, and butts him in the head with his helmet. Mortis's skull DISINTEGRATES in a cloud of fine bone dust.

Dredd yanks a GRENADE off his belt, drops it down Mortis's neck and kicks him away. The headless Dark Judge stumbles to the side, then EXPLODES.

ANDERSON
Here, Dredd --

She pitches him her Lawgiver as Judge Fire and Judge Fear advance. Dredd switches to Incendiaries, FIRES two smoking rounds into Fire's chest, stoking his ebbing flames. The white-hot chemical fire consumes his body from the inside out. Judge Fire collapses, screaming, as his body turns to charcoal.

DREDD
Too much heat for you, creep?

Judge Fear opens his visor and exposes his face to Dredd.

JUDGE FEAR
Gaze into the face of Fear...

Dredd laughs.

FEAR'S FACE - DREDD'S POV

We look into Fear's face for the first time -- and there is no face. You can see all the way out the back of his helmet.

DREDD (V.O.)
You gotta be kidding.

ANGLE - DREDD - AS BEFORE

He riddles Fear's body with AUTOMATIC FIRE.

ANGLE - JUDGE FEAR

As Fear staggere back under the force of the gunfire, the green smoke of his Spirit gathers above him, trying to flee.

JUDGE DEATH (V.O.)
Come ride with me, Brother...

But before Fear's spirit can escape, it's sucked screaming into the void by the force of the avenging dead. Fear's empty husk of a body careens sideways and falls at the feet of Judge Death.

WIDER ANGLE - DREDD AND JUDGE DEATH

The final confrontation. Death stalks toward Dredd. As Dredd FIRES his three remaining round through his chest. Death grunts in pain with each round, but keeps coming. He sweeps Dredd's gun aside and knocks him off his feet. Dredd rolls over and up, Death following quickly.

JUDGE DEATH
Your...heart.

With clawed hands outstretched, he lunges for Dredd, who stands upright, facing him. His hands bounce off Dredd's chest. He tries again, with no effect.

DREDD
Judges don't have hearts.

He smiles -- then slams Death in the chest with a gauntleted fist. Death flails backwards, trying to keep his feet as he stumbles toward the void. He's trying to run away.

ANDERSON
The generator!

Dredd catches up to Judge Death in three short steps, grabs him by the nape of the neck and tears his BADGE off.

DREDD
Now you're just an ordinary Perp.

He hoists Judge Death into the air.

DREDD
And this is your sentence --

With that, he hurls Death against the GENERATOR.

The resulting EXPLOSION is huge and blinding.

EXT. S&C BLOCK - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A bank of WINDOWS high on the 177th Floor explode as a fireball shoots into the night.

The Shield around the Block disappears. PEOPLE flee, past the Judges trying to keep order and get in.

ANGLE - EARPLUG

A hopeless Earplug turns away, sobbing. A JUDGE's hand comes down on her shoulder.

JUDGE
You can't stay here, little girl...

Without even turning, Earplug jerks her lobe.

JUDGE
Owwww!

The Judge falls back as she continues to watch the smoking Block and cry.

ANGLE - MAIN ENTRANCE

As streams of happy Citizens pour out of the building, Dredd and Anderson follow in their wake, battered, tattered, but unbowed.

CLOSER ANGLE - MOVING - DREDD & ANDERSON

ANDERSON
Having all those people inside me in my head -- too much. After this, I think I'll put in for sick leave.

DREDD
After this, I may just join you, Anderson.

ANDERSON
Maybe I'll even pull the pin, I don't know...

DREDD
You're too good a Judge to give it all up --

ANDERSON
The Dark Judges believed they were good Judges...and they killed their whole planet. It's so crazy, they believed they were carrying out the Law...

DREDD
Some dark, twisted version of the Law.

ANDERSON
What makes us any different from them? What good is law without mercy? It's like we've become a society of Perps and Judges and nothing in between! Isn't there another way?

DREDD
Not in this world.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WALL - MUTIE CAMPS - HIGH ANGLE FROM PARAPET - DAY

The last STRAGGLERS are leaving the deserted Mutie Camps outside the Wall. Judges and Security Guards are encouraging them to leave, and setting charges in the Angel Gang tunnel.

ANGLE - GATE

The shell-shocked remains of the Mutie Peace Delegation waits at the threshhold of the Cursed Earth, just inside the gate. They look like they're ready to leave, but stern-faced Judges prevent them.

ANGLE - PARAPET - EARPLUG, ANDERSON & DREDD

Earplug stares sadly down as the Muties leaves, their hopes dashed once again. Then she turns back to Dredd and Anderson.

EARPLUG
Maybe...if Death hadn't gotten ahold of Dag...he could have seen his dream come true.

ANDERSON
Dreams live long after the people who dream them. His was worth dreaming.

EARPLUG
I hope so.

DREDD
I'm sorry I misjudged your friend. I misjudged you too...I should've given you a chance back then.

EARPLUG
Don't worry --
(winks at Anderson)
-- Dreddie. I'm at home out there.

She looks down again.

EXT. GATES - MUTIE DELEGATION

Judge Fargo arrives, late, with the Council of Five. The Chief Judges look to be full of good spirits as they greet the Mutie Delegation ceremonially and shake hands. Judge Fargo hands over a scroll to the nearest Mutie, who turns and hands it to the Engineer Mutie, the leader by default.

The Delegates shuffle and prepare to leave.

As they file out the gate, Earplug brings up the rear.

She's the last figure out the Gate.

EXT. THE CURSED EARTH - DAY

Earplug's small figure is framed against the desolate landscape. She turns, looks up and waves.

EXT. WALL - DAY

CAMERA MOVES from Earplug's POV up to Dredd and Anderson standing on the parapet, Mega-City One rising behind them. Anderson waves back. Even Dredd can't suppress a smile.

ANDERSON
So what's next?

DREDD
Can I give you a ride back to your Block?

ANDERSON
No thanks.

Dredd looks embarrassed. Anderson nudges him in the ribs with her elbow.

ANDERSON
Just kidding.

Dredd manages a laugh as they walk O.S. MUSIC up.

FADE TO BLACK.